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NEW LIFE
SCHOOL COULD BE HOME TO HOUSING COMPLEX {page 2}



SPORTS HEAVEN
BOOK OFFERS GLIMPSE INSIDE HOCKEY HALL OF FAME {page 16}



HALIFAX metro®

Monday, December 12, 2011
www.metronews.ca

News worth sharing.

Head. First



▶ Saint John Sea Dogs goalie Sebastien Auger keeps the puck and Halifax Mooseheads forward Darcy Ashley out of the net during yesterday's QMJHL game at the Metro Centre.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Mooseheads won't give Dogs their day

The Moose skated away with the 3-2 win, snapping a streak of 15-straight losses against the defending Memorial Cup champs. Story, page 36.

3 walkers hit; 1 killed

Motorists and pedestrians need to be more attentive in poor visibility: Police



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

It was a dangerous night for people walking on the streets of HRM on Saturday as three pedestrians were struck, one fatally.

The first incident happened at 6:20 p.m. at the corner of Herring Cove and Dentith roads. A 34-year-old man was running across the street and hit the side of a vehicle. He was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

About an hour later, a 60-year-old man was crossing Pleasant Street near Atlantic Street in Dartmouth. He was not using a crosswalk and was hit by a southbound vehicle. The pedestrian was taken to the hospital, but was pronounced dead when he arrived.

And just minutes later, another man was struck by a vehicle while walking in a crosswalk on Highfield Park Drive in Dartmouth. He was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Halifax Regional Police Staff Sgt. Lindsay Hernden said rain restricted visibility, but there may have been other reasons for the collisions.

"It does not look like charges will be laid in it."
STAFF SGT. LINDSAY HERNDEN

"I think the weather certainly didn't help the situation," he said. "But can you put it all off on the weather? It's difficult to say."

Inattentive driving, and distractions could also have come into play, he added.

"With that being said, (Saturday) night's conditions were certainly not ideal for driving. When these accidents occurred it was dark out, and in many cases there were wet roads and light rain."

No charges were laid in the first two incidents; however, the driver in the Highfield Park Drive collision was charged with failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk.

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1 news

In light of a difficult economy, the Pope reminds the faithful that there's more to Christmas preparations than buying gifts. Scan the code for the story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at metronews.ca

Italy's union leaders say they're going ahead with a call for a general strike to protest pension reform. More at metronews.ca/news

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Winner emerges in bid for St. Patrick's Alexandra site

- The two buildings measure more than 100,000 square feet
- Site primarily vacant since being closed down after last school year

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



▶ The setting sun is seen through a window at the former St. Patrick's-Alexandra school yesterday afternoon.



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

What once was a north-end Halifax school could become a mixed-use housing complex.

St. Patrick's-Alexandra School, which fronts on both Maitland and Brunswick streets, was closed down after the last school year because of declining enrolment.

The Halifax Regional Municipality put out a request for proposals in August and received proposals from three for-profit companies looking for primarily residential space, and three non-profit groups who wanted solely community space.

The winner, based on a point system, was Jono Developments Ltd., which is looking to build residential and affordable-housing units as well as community space on the site.

According to the staff report, which is being presented to Halifax regional council tomorrow, Jono proposed conducting public-consultation sessions to help shape the final design. The company has committed a minimum of five to 10 per cent of the project to affordable housing. The deal also has a right-of-first-refusal option for community and non-profit groups for at least five to 10 per cent of the commercial space.

The money offered by Jono was not released in the report.

Buildings on site

- St. Patrick's School, which was built in 1908 and temporarily houses St. Joseph's Daycare.
- St. Patrick's Elementary School is a three-storey structure built in 1971.

United Gulf Developments proposed a residential/community space project, but Mythos Development's proposal was strictly residential.

The three non-profit groups — North End Health Care, Micmac Native Friendship Centre and the Richard Preston Centre for Excellence — placed in the bottom three.

The proposals were weighed on their understanding of the intent and objectives of the land use, qualifications and experience, financial capability and the financial offer itself.

Two years later, cops still search for killer

Halifax homicide investigators are still looking for Timothy John Kelly's murderer.

Kelly was killed two years ago today.

On Dec. 12, 2009, police were called to 7051 Abbott Dr. near the Halifax Shopping Centre just after 10 p.m. Kelly, 44, was reportedly found lying on the sidewalk in front of a home, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. He was taken to hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Two days later, investigators ruled Kelly's death a homicide. They had no suspects and no suspected motives, although they did confirm Kelly was known to police.

Today, police are still not in a position to lay charges, according to Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter.

"It's one of the (cases) where we've explored a lot of avenues, but at this point we haven't had enough information come forward for an arrest," Palmeter said yesterday. "People have that information, and they can come forward and bring it to us so we can close the file and bring some closure to (Kelly's) family."

ALEX BOUTILIER

CONTRIBUTED



▶ Timothy John Kelly

New MetroX stop considered

Halifax regional council will consider spending close to $700,000 to build a MetroX stop for Timberlea and Hubely.

HRM staff estimate this new express service from Sheldrake Lake to Scotia Square would cost $684,343 and accommodate 71 riders a day.

Since the ridership might not materialize to justify the cost, and the HRM would be left with the land if the service is pulled, staff came up with five options for council's consideration. The first, and most expensive is to build a standard park-and-ride for MetroX, but they could also build it without a bus loop, build a gravel lot with no bus loop, expand the Tantallon MetroX lot by 30 spaces, or just encourage commuters to use Tantallon MetroX with no expansion.

"I believe Option 1, while it may appear to be expensive, it is the only candidate site that would work for that intersection," said area Coun. Reg Rankin.

There is the capital cost of construction, but once it's up and running the operating costs are not so bad, Rankin said.

"It was promised, and if you don't have alternative sites I don't think the alternative would be very attractive to abandon this prominent location."

HRM is looking to buy the 6.5-acre lot from the Canadian National Baptist Convention for $100,000.

JENNIFER TAPLIN

8 The number of people who showed up to a public-information meeting at the Lakeside Community Centre on June 15.

Ships. Ahoy!



▶ Owen Grace from the Nova Scotia Lego Users Group works on the Christmas at Sea display at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic yesterday. The display was part of the Ships Do Start Here! weekend at the museum.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Follow the Lego brick road

Parishioners reeling from loss of church

Police say the fire at Victoria Presbyterian Church is not suspicious ◐ Church bell and gold cross recovered

A fire gutted a century-old Nova Scotia church on Saturday, leaving the treasurer of the Cape Breton landmark "in shock."

"It means everything to me, it means everything. It was a terrible loss," said Jean MacInnis of the Victoria Presbyterian Church.

The fire started in the attic of the church, an important centre in the community of Birch Grove, MacInnis said.

Due to poor water pressure, firefighters were unable to salvage the building but recovered the church bell and gold cross, MacInnis said.

"It's just a shock that no one can fathom."
JEAN MACINNIS

The church was built in 1912 and was preparing for its 100th anniversary next year. MacInnis said it's hard to say what the future holds for the congregation.

"I don't think it will ever be rebuilt because our congregation is too small. As to what we will do, I have no idea because we're still in the thinking process," she said Saturday as she fought back tears.

MacInnis said just last week, the church reception room was "decorated to perfection" and filled with more than 100 community members celebrating a parishioner's 90th birthday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lawyer accuses mother of shaking infant

The defense lawyer for a man accused of manslaughter in his baby's death accused the infant's mother of shaking their daughter and lying about what she told police the day the child was rushed to a Halifax hospital.

In his cross-examination of Jane Gomes on Friday, Donald Murray asked why she told a police constable on July 23, 2009, that seven-week-old Aurora Breakthrough had been sick since she was born.

Gomes denied making the statement during a car ride to the IWK children's hospital.

"I'm going to suggest you did say that ... because you knew you were the only one to look after Aurora pretty much for the first two weeks and for most of the first month," Murray said.

Gomes denied Murray's assertion, saying the constable must have been mistaken.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



▶ Jane Gomes

Ashiqur Rahman, 25, has pleaded not guilty in the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia to manslaughter and aggravated assault in the baby's death.

Gomes, 25, pleaded guilty this year to a charge of failing to provide the necessities of life and received a conditional discharge with six months of probation. She also agreed as part of her plea to testify at Rahman's trial.

Murray accused Gomes of telling police the child had been sick because she had mistreated the baby.

"You shook her to stop her from crying ... and you hoped against hope that nobody would ever notice anything," he said.

Murray also questioned Gomes's motives for agreeing to testify against her former partner.

He argued Gomes grew worried about the possibility she could face serious charges when she saw a January 2010 medical examiner's report that said the baby died of "non-accidental trauma."

Gomes disagreed, saying she was simply taking her lawyer's advice to accept the lesser charge of failing to provide the necessities of life.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Breakdown

▶ **Jane Gomes** became emotional and cried during the cross-examination, and at one point the judge ordered a recess.

HRP officer facing assault charges

A Halifax Regional Police officer has been accused of assaulting a woman.

Halifax police say the RCMP responded to a call last Sunday in Enfield involving an off-duty officer and a woman known to him. As a result of an RCMP investigation, an assault charge was laid. Const. Ashley Lewis will appear in provincial court in Shubenacadie on Dec. 19.

Halifax police say Lewis has been placed on administrative duties pending the outcome of the court case. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

18
The number of months the 28-year-old officer has been with the force.

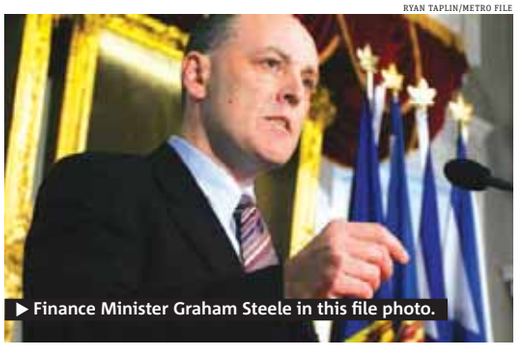
Cops seek suspect in beating

RCMP are probing an apparent assault that left a man in serious but stable condition. The 32-year-old Shubenacadie man was found unconscious and suffering from head injuries in a residence in Stewiacke. Police are looking for a 30-year-old man from Indian Brook.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO FILE



Finance Minister Graham Steele in this file photo.

Province's spending plan 150K higher than expected

Higher-than-anticipated capital budget fuel rumours of early election



ALEX BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

Finance Minister Graham Steele has unveiled a $610-million capital budget for the coming year.

That's $150 million more than his department expected to spend when they tabled the 2011-2012 budget last spring.

Steele told reporters on Friday the higher-than-anticipated capital spending is meant to address the province's infrastructure deficit.

"There's a time that you need to respond to the infrastructure deficit while keeping an eye on job creation, and this is the year where I think the people of the province expect us to do that," Steele said.

Capital spending peaked in 2009-10, when the province spent almost $800 million as part of a stimulus plan to address the global depression. Spending has declined since then — to over $700 million in 2010-11, and $560 million this year.

"This is just expensive pre-election NDP stimulus. It's not a jobs plan"
TORY LEADER JAMIE BAILLIE

This year's budget will slightly increase Nova Scotia's net debt-to-GDP ratio, an important indicator for capital markets.

The plan includes $281 million in highway spending, $158 million on buildings, and $87 million in capital grants. A further $57.8 million will be spent on information technology projects, $13.1 million for vehicles and equipment, and $12.8 million on land purchases.

The government is referring to the capital plan — the second in the province's history — as a "Jobs and Building" plan.



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MLAs wrapping up bills before holidays

All signs are pointing to an end coming soon of the third session of Nova Scotia's 61st General Assembly.

MLAs could be returning to their constituencies as early as the end of the week, after a six and a half week sitting.

The most contentious item on the NDP government's legislative agenda — Bill 102, which will introduce first contract arbitration in Nova Scotia — passed on Friday. First contract arbitration allows a newly certified union or their employer to seek an outside settlement in the event of a breakdown in negotiations. The arbitrated contract would only last one year.

The bill was widely supported by labour, but panned by the business lobby and pilloried by the opposition Liberals and Progressive Conservatives. Premier Darrell Dexter and his NDP government used its majority in the house to pass the bill with only minor changes.



Darrell Dexter

Another important bill still needs to be wrapped up — legislation that would give the Queens Municipality authority to grant a tax break to the beleaguered Bowater mill in Liverpool.

The legislation is part of a $50-million bailout package from the provincial government to keep the mill open five more years.

Debate on that bill is expected to wrap up this week. **ALEX BOUTILIER**

Plane. Talk



▶ Defence Minister Peter MacKay, right, chats with David Gossen, president of IMP Aerospace, at an event to mark a milestone in a project to extend the service life of the CP 140 Aurora aircraft at IMP Aerospace in Enfield on Friday. The aircraft are receiving new wings as part of a mid-life structural upgrade.

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Aircraft receiving new wings in upgrade

School's future may be outlined

Nearly 7,900 people have signed online petition asking premier to keep Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) independent



ALY THOMSON
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

A report expected to be released this week could help delineate the foggy future of a century-old Nova Scotia fine arts university.

Now in the hands of the provincial government, the report will outline the NSCAD University's viability and provide recommendations that could pave a new path for the school.

NSCAD, facing a $2.4-million deficit and carrying $19 million in debt, is one of several Nova Scotia universities under examination because of financial difficulties.

The school was one of six universities deemed "at risk" because of looming financial problems in a report released last year by economist Tim O'Neill.

O'Neill identified NSCAD as one of four potential candidates for a merger with another school.

In September, the government appointed former provincial deputy minister Howard Windsor to examine the school's books and write a report on its future.

At nearly 125 years old, it is the oldest independent school in Canada granting fine arts degrees, but proposed changes could see NSCAD programs merged with other institutions.

That has some NSCAD faculty, students and alumni fighting to keep the school fully autonomous.

Nicole Cooper, the student union's vice-president of external affairs, said the school's critical approach to learning would be lost in a merger.

"The characteristics of the university that make it so attractive are the ones that would be in jeopardy if we were to merge," said Cooper in a phone interview.

"Things like having the administration make decisions for us ... that have to do with our classes and the allocation of money is very important for how the school functions."

She also said merging would not necessarily resolve the school's financial woes.

Peter Wunsch, president of the school's alumni association, said he believes a merger is possible but maintaining independence would be preferable.

"Logistically as well as philosophically, it'd be hard to imagine it connected to another school in a merger situation."

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

CRIME

Police vehicle struck

Halifax Regional Police say one of its patrol vans was struck at an intersection in Dartmouth as the vehicle was responding to a crime in progress in the area of Mic Mac Mall.

Police say the van had its sirens on and was travelling north into the intersection of Woodland Avenue from Mic Mac Boulevard just after 2 p.m. yesterday when it was hit by a vehicle.

The impact of the crash then drove the van into a second vehicle that was stopped at the intersection on Lancaster Drive.

A man, woman and a one-year-old child from the second vehicle were taken to hospital with minor injuries. No one else was injured in the crash.

METRO

$150K reward in unsolved murder

CONTRIBUTED



▶ Donald Chad Smith

A $150,000 reward is being offered for information in the murder of a driver for a Halifax-area pizza restaurant last year.

Nova Scotia's Justice Department has added the case of Donald Chad Smith to its Major Unsolved Crimes Program.

Smith was shot at 15 Joseph Young St. at about 9:30 p.m. on Oct. 23, 2010.

The reward is for anyone who gives information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible for Smith's murder.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Underpass opens to traffic

The Washmill Lake Drive underpass opened to traffic on Friday, providing a third way to-and-from Bayers Lake Business Park.

METRO

Teen charged in armed robbery

Police have charged a 17-year-old female in relation to an armed robbery at the Ultramar gas station on Herring Cove Road on Thursday morning.

METRO



Tories take to Twitter

Staffers will respond to questions submitted in English and French at Treasury Board's town hall Clement to provide answers

NDP MP riled

- **While the Opposition** commended the idea of the consultations, NDP MP Charlie Angus scoffed at the idea that it represents a commitment to open government.
- **Angus was particularly riled** that it is Clement heading up the initiative, given the NDP's assertion that Clement has misled Canadians on the handling of funds allocated for the G8/G20 summits.
- **"Because he goes on Twitter** and uses words like crowdsourcing, people are going to be fooled," Angus said.
- **"Open and accountable** government is knowing how decisions are made."

The Conservatives are finally putting the "social" into their use of social media.

Treasury Board President Tony Clement will host the government's inaugural Twitter town hall this Thursday, taking questions for 90 minutes on the subject of developing an open government strategy for Canada.

While many MPs, as well as government departments and agencies, use social media tools like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, they've all faced criticism for only using them as ways to push out information rather that interact in real-time with citizens.

That Clement is hosting the first live social media event isn't an accident.

His nickname in government circles is the "Minister for Twitter." He has over 19,000 followers and has used social media to make pronouncements of government policy as well as to speak directly to Opposition MPs, the media and Canadians, sometimes much to the chagrin of the prime minister's office.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Treasury Board President Tony Clement reads from an iPad as he responds to a question during a question period in the House of Commons on Oct. 27.

Social media

RISKY MOVE FOR CLEMENT?

Digital public affairs strategist Mark Blevis said Tony Clement is taking a risk with holding the formal Twitter event.

There will be inevitable criticism of which questions are and aren't answered and there's the possibility that many won't be on topic.

But Blevis cautioned against undue criticism, noting the government has to be given the chance to make mistakes in figuring out how to use social media. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa to enforce helmets for kids on ice

A new rule will force kids and novice skaters to strap on helmets before venturing out on the ice at Ottawa's indoor rinks.

Mayor Jim Watson was expected to announce the new policy yesterday.

Currently, only people in wheelchairs or strollers are required to wear helmets.

But a city report showed boys between 10 and 14 years old account for the most skating-related hospital visits.

Coun. Maria McRae says the rule could be amended at a later date to include a broader age group.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

10

The new rule takes effect Jan. 1 and applies to children under 10 years old as well as weak or beginner skaters.

Portugal. Parade



▶ Performers dressed as Santa Claus participate in the annual Santa Claus parade, in Porto, Portugal, yesterday.

PAULO DUARTE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Santa record-breaking attempt

Thousands staged a parade in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for most people dressed as Santa Claus.

Canadian held in Gadhafi plot ill in jail: Lawyer

A Canadian woman detained by Mexican authorities in connection with an alleged plot involving a son of former Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi is devastated by her ordeal, says one of her lawyers.

Paul Copeland hasn't actually been able to speak with Cynthia Vanier, but has been in touch with family members and her Mexican lawyer, who have had contact.

"She's very upset and she's actually having some health difficulties in the jail," said Copeland.

Mexican authorities have also seized a condo near Puerto Vallarta that Vanier and her husband owned, something that has added to her anxiety, said Copeland, a well-known Canadian human-rights lawyer.

Vanier, who runs a business based in Mount Forest, Ont., that specializes in mediating disputes, is accused by Mexican authorities of leading a plot to illegally smuggle al-Saadi Gadhafi into Mexico.

Vanier denies the allegation and never had any contact with Gadhafi, Copeland said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Accusation

- **Last week Mexico's** interior minister accused Cynthia Vanier of being the leader of a plot.
- **Alejandro Poire said the plan** to bring Gadhafi to Mexico allegedly involved Vanier, two Mexicans and a Danish suspect, all of whom have been detained.
- **Gadhafi denied last week** he was trying to enter Mexico. He fled Libya earlier this year after the fall of his father's regime and was given refugee status in Niger.

GOP PRIMARIES

Romney's treatment of dog goes unpunished

It's not come up in any of the Republican presidential debates as he struggles to keep his campaign on course. He isn't faced with questions about the incident on the campaign trail. Animal-rights activists haven't been heckling him in Iowa.

But it's a true story with a Canadian angle: Mitt Romney once made the 12-hour drive from Boston to Grand Bend, Ont., with the family dog strapped to the roof of his car.

New York Times columnist Gail Collins has refused to let the largely forgotten story die, mentioning the incident as many as two dozen times since Romney entered the Republican race for president, both in 2007 and in 2011. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arab League flays Gingrich comments

A senior Arab League official yesterday condemned a statement by Republican presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich claiming Palestinians are an "invented" people, calling it racist and a cheap stunt to get votes.

However Israeli cabinet minister Uzi Landau said Gingrich was "right." He claimed the Palestinians do not have their own language or culture, and are instead part of the broader Arab world.

Gingrich also called Palestinians "terrorists." The comments struck at the heart of Palestinian sensitivities. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boy escapes captors

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ In this photo taken on Saturday, Kevin Lunsmann, a kidnapped American, talks to Filipino soldiers in Zamboanga city, southern Philippines, following his escape from suspected al-Qaida-linked militants.

Teenager to be reunited with family after five-month abduction

A kidnapped American teenage boy escaped from suspected al-Qaida-linked militants and wandered without shoes for two days in a southern Philippine jungle before villagers found him, ending his five-month captivity, officials said yesterday.

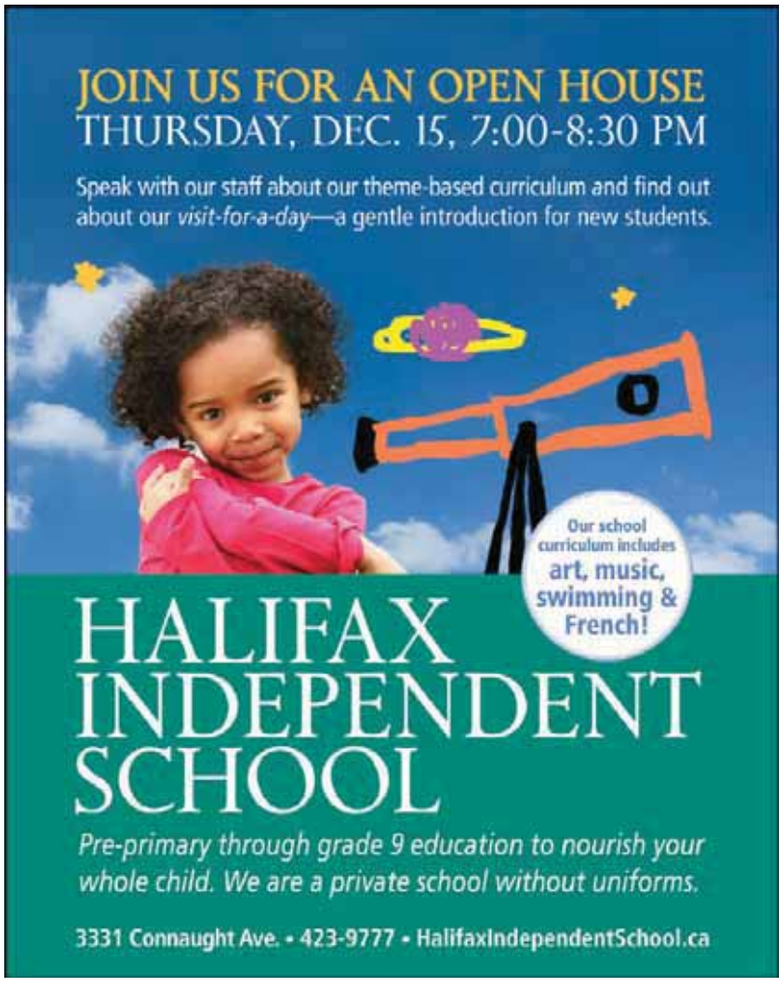
Kevin Lunsmann, 14, told his four armed captors that he would take a bath in a stream and then made a dash for freedom Friday in Basilan province, police Senior Supt. Edwin de Ocampo said. He followed a river down a mountain until villagers found him late the next day, de Ocampo said.

Exhausted, hungry and still stunned, the boy initially fled from the villagers, de Ocampo said.

"He was in fear so there was a bit of a chase before the villagers convinced him that they were friends," de Ocampo told The Associated Press. He said the boy was fine, but was exhausted and had bruises on his arms and feet. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Timeline

- **The boy, his mother** and a cousin were snatched July 12 on an island near Zamboanga City when they were vacationing.
- **The mother was freed** two months ago.
- **The cousin escaped** from the captors last month when Filipino army forces managed to get near an Abu Sayyaf camp.





News in brief

Protests call for Saleh's trial

SANAA, YEMEN. Hundreds of thousands of Yemenis are demonstrating to demand President Ali Abdullah Saleh face trial for his regime's deadly crackdown on months of protests.

Yesterday's rallies took place in the capital, Sanaa, and other cities across the country.

After months of pressure, Saleh signed a deal last month to step down as president in exchange for immunity from prosecution. New presidential elections are set for Feb. 21.

The deal has failed to end the protests, which began last February with calls for his ouster.

Protesters also rejected a unity government formed over the weekend that includes some ministers from Saleh's administration.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraq, Iran swap soldiers' bodies

BAGHDAD, IRAQ. An Iraqi official says Iraq and Iran have exchanged the bodies of 93 soldiers killed during their 1980-1988 war.

Mahdi al-Tamimi, an official in Iraq's Human Rights ministry, says the remains of 90 Iraqis and 3 Iranians were returned to their native countries yesterday during a ceremony.

Al-Tamimi says the swap near the southern Iraqi city of Basra brings the number of Iraqi bodies received since 1996 to 2,319 and Iranians to 1,476.

More than 1 million people from both sides were killed or went missing during the eight-year war. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran refuses to return drone

U.S. intelligence officials contend the RQ-170 simply malfunctioned

Iran will not return a U.S. surveillance drone captured by its armed forces, a senior commander of the country's elite Revolutionary Guard said yesterday.

Gen. Hossein Salami, deputy head of the Guard, said in remarks broadcast on state television that the violation of Iran's airspace by the U.S. drone was a "hostile act" and warned of a "bigger" response.

He did not elaborate on what Tehran might do.

Iranian television broadcast video Thursday of Iranian military officials inspecting what it identified as the RQ-170 Sentinel drone.

Iranian state media have said the unmanned spy aircraft was detected over the eastern town of Kashmar, some 225 kilometres from the border with Afghanistan.

"No one returns the symbol of aggression to the party that sought secret and vital intelligence related to the national security of a country."
IRAN'S GEN. HOSSEIN SALAMI

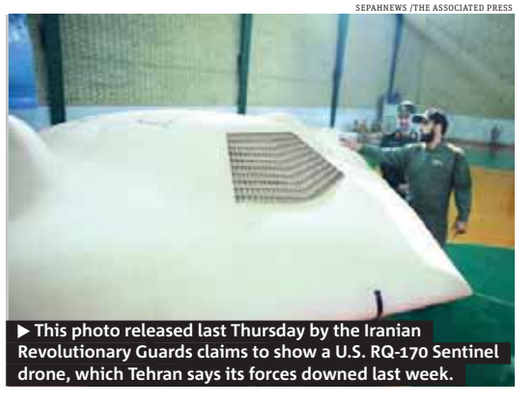
U.S. officials have acknowledged losing the drone.

Salami called its capture a victory for Iran and a defeat for the U.S. in a complicated intelligence and technological battle.

"Iran is among the few countries that possesses the most modern technology in the field of pilotless drones.

"The technology gap between Iran and the U.S. is not much," he said.

SEPAHNEWS /THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ This photo released last Thursday by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards claims to show a U.S. RQ-170 Sentinel drone, which Tehran says its forces downed last week.

Officers in the Guard, Iran's most powerful military force, had previously claimed that the country's armed forces brought down the surveillance aircraft with an electronic ambush, causing minimum damage to the drone.

But Salami refused to provide more details of Iran's claim to have captured the CIA-operated aircraft.

"A party that wins in an intelligence battle doesn't reveal its methods. We can't elaborate on the methods we employed to intercept, control, discover and bring down the pilotless plane," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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BIM CLASS ACTION

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WHAT IS THIS CASE ABOUT?

A class action lawsuit has been certified in the Federal Court of Canada claiming that Business in Motion International Corporation and Alex Kippax ("BIM") ran an illegal pyramid scheme and an illegal multi-level marketing scheme. A copy of the Statement of Claim and Order certifying the action as a class proceeding can be found at www.BIMclassaction.com.

HOW WILL THE LAWSUIT PROCEED?

A trial will be held to determine the common issues in the action. If these issues are determine in favor of the class members, there might still need to be individual hearings to determine the entitlement of each class member to a refund.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO PARTICIPATE?

There is nothing you have to do right now. Unless you opt out, you will be bound by the result of the common issues trial. However, in order to make sure you are notified of any important developments in the action, we recommend you register on our website at www.BIMclassaction.com.

WHAT IF I DO NOT WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS LAWSUIT?

If you do not want to be part of the class action, you must complete the online form at www.BIMclassaction.com. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact Ulla Herlev at Branch MacMaster LLP. You must complete the online form by no later than January 18, 2012.

DO I NEED TO PAY ANYTHING?

You will only need to pay legal fees if the action is successful in obtaining you a refund of some of the monies you paid. Those legal fees will be paid directly from the refund you receive. You will not need to pay any legal fees out of your own pocket.

Any fee paid to the lawyers must be approved by the Court as being fair and reasonable. The fee agreement entered into by the representative plaintiff provides for the lawyers to be paid up to 1/3 of any amounts recovered or any benefit obtained from the class action. If and when this occurs, the lawyers will apply to Court for approval of that percentage or some lesser amount.

If the class action is unsuccessful at the common issues trial, you will not pay any legal fees.

WHO ARE THE LAWYERS FOR THE CLASS?

The lawyers for the class are:

BRANCH MACMASTER LLP
Barristers and Solicitors
1410 – 777 Hornby Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 1S4

HORDO BENNETT MOUNTEER LLP
Barristers and Solicitors
1400 – 128 West Pender St.
Vancouver, BC V6B 1R8

Mark Cuzzetto (the representative plaintiff) has been appointed by the Court to instruct the lawyers for the common issues stage. The lawyers must act in the interest of all class members.

HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS?

For updates or questions please check our website at www.BIMclassaction.com. Alternatively, you can contact Ulla Herlev of Branch MacMaster LLP:

Ulla Herlev, Paralegal
Email: uherlev@branmac.com
Tel: (604) 654-2964
Fax: (604) 684-3429

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Stamped .800 Silver	$0.49/gram
Unstamped Solid Silver	$0.41/gram

Canadian Silver Currency

Coins from 1966 or earlier	14.7 Times Face Value
Coins from 1967	11.5 Times Face Value
Coins from 1968	8.9 Times Face Value

American Silver Coins

Coins from 1964 or ealier	15.9 Times Face Value

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Platinum Jewellery (stamped 950)	$29.81/gram
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Medvedev promises election-fraud probe

- Russian president makes announcement on Facebook
- Tens of thousands turn out for protests on Saturday

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev announced on his Facebook page yesterday that he has ordered a probe into the allegations of electoral fraud during the country's Dec. 4 parliamentary vote.

Many Facebook users asked Medvedev whether he really disagrees with the protest's main slogan, "We're for fair elections." Some wrote that Medvedev's message made them even more determined to take part in the next planned rally against electoral fraud — on Dec. 24.

Tens of thousands of Russians rallied in Moscow and other cities on Saturday in the largest anti-government protest in the nation's post-Soviet history to protest alleged fraud in the parliamentary election and to demand the departure of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

2,200

Medvedev's post generated over 2,200 mostly angry comments within an hour. "Shame!" and "We don't believe you!" were the most common.

Medvedev yesterday broke two days of silence by posting a comment on his Facebook page.

"I disagree with the slogans as well as with the speeches that were made at the rallies," he said, but added that he gave instruction for a check of the reports of fraud. He did not mention who would carry out the probe.

Neither Medvedev nor Putin made any public appearances over the weekend.

Unlike Putin, the tech-savvy Medvedev, Russia's president since 2008, has enjoyed some support among an educated urban elite. But an announcement in September that he will step aside to let his mentor Putin run for a third term as president has angered many Medvedev supporters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DMITRY LOVETSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Russian nationalists shout while holding old Russian imperial flags during their rally yesterday in St. Petersburg. Russian nationalists are demanding a bigger say for ethnic Russians in the country's politics.

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1 Adele Someone Like You
Weeknights at 9 Tessa counts down the HOTTEST 5 songs that day!
1013THEBOUNCE.COM

Kent eyes new climate deal by 2015

Mixed reactions to Durban accord

Canada's environment minister has praised the agreement on climate talks reached in South Africa yesterday, and said he was cautiously optimistic a new treaty can be concluded by 2015.

"The Durban Platform is a fair and balanced framework for responsible and effective action," Peter Kent said.

Earlier in the day, the 194-party conference in Durban agreed to start negotiations on a new accord that would ensure that countries will be legally bound to carry out any pledges they make.

It would take effect by 2020 at the latest.

"Although these negotiations will be difficult, we are cautiously optimistic that we will reach a new agreement by 2015," Kent said. He also reiterated his opposition to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"We want to avoid another Kyoto-like pact at all costs."
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT PETER KENT

SCHALK VAN ZUYDAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Peter Kent

TINA FINEBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



▶ In this Sept. 26, 2010 photo, police stand along the route of the West Indian-American Day Parade as participants make their way through the Brooklyn borough of New York.

NYPD looks into Facebook flap

20 Department officials said this week that at least 20 offensive comments made on the page may have come from police officers.

The New York City Police Department is investigating whether police officers made offensive comments on a Facebook page devoted to the annual West Indian Day parade in Brooklyn.

The Facebook group purported to be created by police officers was entitled No More West Indian Day Detail and was rife with nasty, often racist comments about the parade that has been marred by violence, including this year when two people were fatally shot.

Internal affairs detectives are interviewing officers under oath, and getting subpoenas for computer records. Departmental charges could be brought.

But the posts, however embarrassing or outrageous, also raise a First Amendment free-speech issue about whether officers should guard their online comments.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

N.L. man dead after being run over by parade float

A joyous day in eastern Newfoundland was marred by tragedy when a man was killed after being run over by a Christmas parade float, RCMP said yesterday.

Sgt. Wayne Newell said the incident happened after the parade had wrapped up in Carbonear. He said the 41-year-old victim was headed home, riding on a flatbed trailer that served as the float.

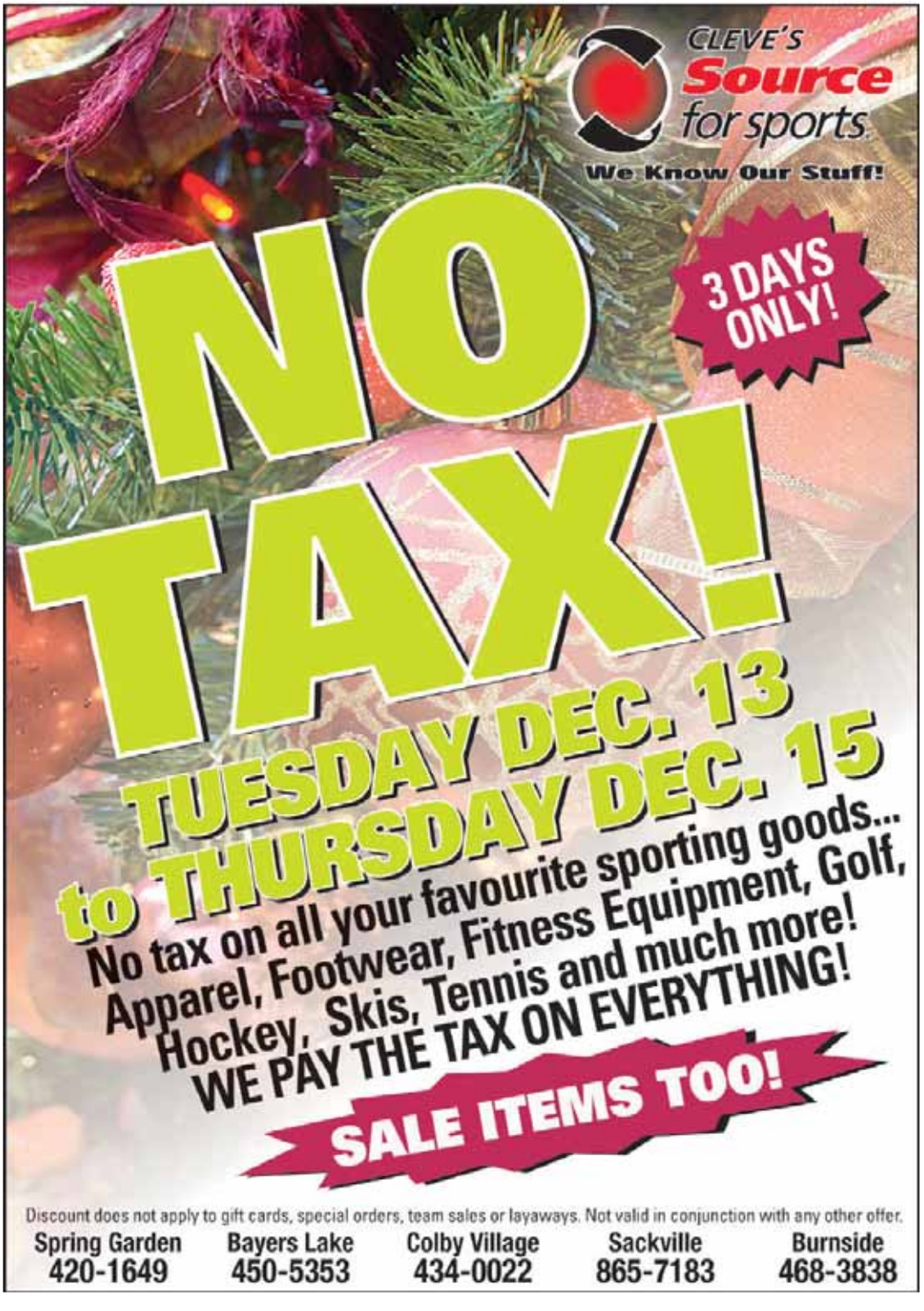
Newell said the truck that was towing the trailer made a turn, causing the man — who had been sitting on a rail — to fall from the float.

"He fell on the inside of the turn and actually went under the wheels to the best of our knowledge," Newell said in an interview.

"(He) suffered a very tragic death as he was dragged underneath the wheels of the transport trailer."

Newell said the man was dragged a "considerable distance" and died from his injuries at the scene. His name was not immediately released.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Private sector to help keep eye on seas

Special forces want help in early warning of possible terror threats

Canada's special forces are turning to the private sector for help in early warning of possible terror threats coming from the sea.

The ultra-secret organization is tapping into an existing fisheries-surveillance contract with Provincial Airlines Ltd., a subsidiary of Provincial Aerospace Ltd. of St. John's to monitor the movements of vessels of interest off the country's coastline.

A briefing note, prepared for the former commander of the elite forces, says there are lots of government aircraft, including military and RCMP helicopters for land-based emergencies, but "options are significantly reduced when it comes to maritime threats.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Project Neptune

The special forces have also embarked on a more sophisticated, little-known $4.5-million program known as Project Neptune.

The plan is to take commercially available technology and, with the help defence researchers, roll it into one easy-to-use package for the special forces.

India. Celebration



▶ An Indian army soldier jumps over 20 of his team members as he performs during celebrations ahead of Victory Day in Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) yesterday.

BIKAS DAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marking a military victory

The day that will be celebrated on Dec. 16 marks the birth of Bangladesh. Victory Day is a national holiday in Bangladesh to commemorate the surrender of Pakistani forces to allied Indian and Bangladeshi forces in the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971. In India, the day is primarily of military significance.

Ottawa to send 22 homes to Attawapiskat

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ A resident walks down the long hallway of a dorm-style trailer offering temporary shelter to those without homes in Attawapiskat, Ont., on Nov. 29.

The federal government has agreed to a demand from Attawapiskat for 22 modular homes to bring some relief to the isolated native community that has become a symbol of the brutal plight facing many of Canada's first peoples.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan yesterday said that Ottawa has purchased an additional seven homes on top of the 15 previously announced, bringing the cost of the pre-fabricated structures to $1.8 million

He added that Chief Theresa Spence also agreed to renovations to the community's healing centre to temporarily house vulnerable residents until the homes arrive.

An official with the minister's office said they hoped winter roads would quickly freeze so that the shipment of the pre-assembled homes can start sometime in January.

In a statement released yesterday morning, Duncan said wood stoves, composting toilets, plastic sheeting and other supplies were flown into the isolated Northern Ontario community Saturday.

"Our government is working to ensure the people of Attawapiskat have access to safe and warm shelter for the coming months," he said.

Spence could not be reached for comment, but NDP critic Charlie Angus, whose riding includes the native community on the coast of James Bay, said the critical issue is who will wind up footing the bill.

"If the government is covering the cost, then the community can start dealing with the other massive infrastructure problems, but if the community ends up paying for it through the third-party manager, then they will not be any further ahead," he said.

Angus said he is hopeful that government's most recent concession can be the beginning of bringing relief to the impoverished community of about 1,800.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

Paille to lead Bloc Quebecois

MONTREAL Former MP and provincial cabinet minister Daniel Paille is the new leader of the Bloc Quebecois.

Paille, who lost his seat in the last election, beat out current MPs Maria Mourani and Jean-Francois Fortin.

Paille faces the daunting job of trying to bring back the party that was all but decimated in a disastrous showing in last May's election.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wanted U.S. man arrested

MONTREAL. Montreal police arrested a 51-year-old American man yesterday who the FBI calls armed and dangerous.

James Whittlesey was wanted in connection with a series of crimes, including robbing a bank in Virginia last October and shooting at police who responded to the robbery. No officers were injured in the incident.

Whittlesey was also sought in connection with four armed robberies in Pennsylvania and Delaware.

He was arrested on a downtown Montreal street corner early yesterday morning.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Earthquake rocks Mexico

MEXICO CITY. A magnitude-6.5 earthquake struck in Mexico's western Guerrero state, shaking buildings and causing panic in the nation's capital and the Pacific resort of Acapulco. Officials said at least three people died, but there were no reports of widespread damage.

The U.S. Geological Service initially estimated the quake at magnitude at 6.8, but downgraded it to 6.7 and then 6.5. A quake of that magnitude is capable of causing severe damage.

Mexico's Interior Department said the quake was felt in parts of nine states.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Last battle of Red River Rebellion to take place

More than 140 years after the guns were put away, the last battle in the rebellion that brought Manitoba into Confederation is about to be fought.

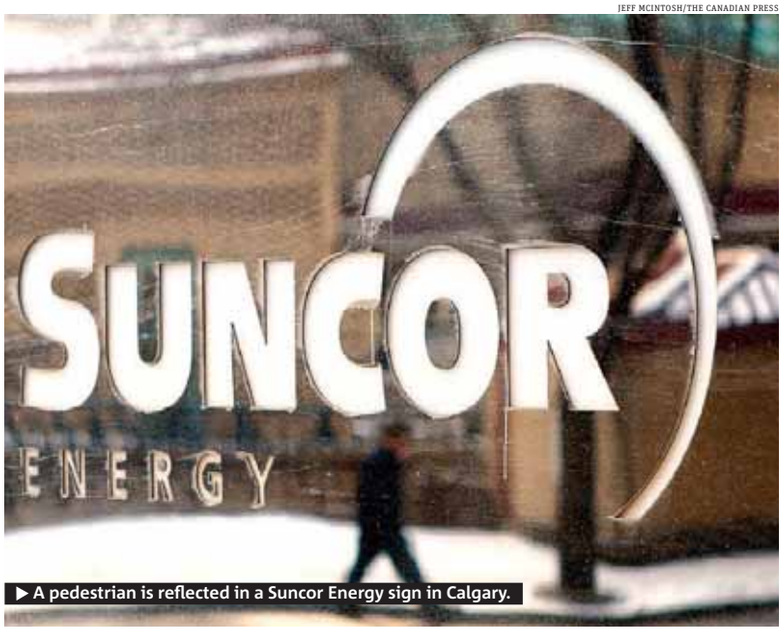
Lawyers are to argue in front of the Supreme Court tomorrow that the federal government never lived up to the 1870 deal that settled the Red River Rebellion, fought by Metis struggling to hold on to their land in the face of growing white settlement.

"It's important for us to get right with our history," said Tom Berger, the legendary aboriginal-rights lawyer who will represent the Manitoba Metis Federation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"We have to remember our history and we have to remember that the Metis didn't go away. They're still here."

TOM BERGER, ABORIGINAL-RIGHTS LAWYER

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ A pedestrian is reflected in a Suncor Energy sign in Calgary.

Suncor pulls out of Syria

Canadian oil giant complying with new international sanctions

Canadian oil giant Suncor Energy Inc. says it is pulling out of Syria in order to comply with new international sanctions aimed at further isolating the regime of President Bashar al-Assad.

"The current situation in Syria is very concerning, and our thoughts are with the Syrian people as we hope for a return to peace as soon as possible," Suncor CEO Rick George said in a statement.

Pressure has been mounting on Suncor to pull out of the country since the sanctions took effect earlier this month.

The Calgary-based company had previously said it would continue its operations in Syria despite earlier international sanctions targeting the country's oil and gas exports, saying the natural gas it produced jointly with the state-owned General Petroleum Corp., was for domestic consumption only.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. FRIDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 82.95 (12,034.75)	+ $0.4¢ (98.19¢ US)
Oil	**Natural gas**
+ $1.07 US ($99.41 US)	$3.32 US (- 14¢ US)
	Gold
	$1,716.80 US (+ 2.60 US)

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Poland 1.9¢/min
Romania 1.9¢/min
Russia from 1.9¢/min
South Korea 2.9¢/min
Sri Lanka 9.9¢/min
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Ukraine 7.9¢/min
U.K 2.9¢/min
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The Metro Global Photo Challenge is over The general public and our local judges have chosen the top Canadian finalists, who will now go on to compete against other international entries for a chance to win the global grand prize — a trip to any city where Metro is published

Snapping, sharing for top prize

Environment

Ghost House
by Mauricio Correa

MAURICIO CORREA



What was your inspiration?
This is an old and abandoned house near Quebec's Lac-Mégantic. This decaying house stands alone in the middle of a verdant landscape.

What were you trying to say with this picture?
I meant to capture the co-existence of decay and fertility. In nature, there is a cycle from birth to death. Here the landscape represents the eternal, the house, all that is transient. This old house epitomizes emptiness, solitude, decay. It is a ghostly testimony of better times, something that cries out for care and attention. The green landscape and the tree in full foliage symbolize the hope of life everlasting.

What do you hope people take away from your picture?
Nothing lasts like an image of transient nature frozen in time by the photographer's lens. There's still time to rebuild this planet.

Environment

Froggy Froggy
by Laura Makaltses

LAURA MAKALTSES



What was your inspiration?
I caught this photograph when I was hiking with my friend. We were walking by a pond when we heard the sound of the frogs croaking. The sound was so tranquil. I wanted to see where it was coming from. My friend and I found the frog and I took this shot. I was truly inspired by the sounds of nature.

What were you trying to say with your picture?
I am capturing the personality of the frog and its environment.

What do you hope people take away from your picture?
I hope people will understand the beauty of frogs and all animals. Many species all over the world become endangered every day. I hope that. after seeing my photograph, people will realize that we need to help keep our world's biodiversity alive.

Imagination

Sharp Mind by Adhi Kusumawardana

ADHI KUSUMAWARDANA



What was your inspiration?
I was inspired by a good friend who is a successful photographer and also an art director. He is a smart, talented and witty artist — his ideas are brilliant — but, as a person, very humble and down-to-earth.

What were you trying to say with your picture?
I was trying to show how success and prosperity will come to people who are sharp, virtuous and bold.

What do you hope people take away from your picture?
I hope that people enjoy the image as much as I enjoyed taking it.

Imagination

Christmas Spirit at Niagara Falls
by Ling-fai Leung

LING-FAI LEUNG



What was your inspiration?
Photography is an amazing form of art to let people visualize the internal feeling of a subject from its surroundings. There is beauty around all of us. One needs to be able to visualize this and record it to photos.

What were you trying to say with your picture?
I am always drawn to Niagara Fall's Evening Illumination, when different colours of light shine on the falls. This picture was taken at the balcony of Fallsview Casino Dec. 18, 2008. It was a quiet evening, snow could still be seen on the streets and rooftop and smoke coming from the chimney stack of the highrise building. I used slowest exposure to capture the water movement. It showed a very warm, romantic feeling of Christmas spirit.

What do you hope people take away from your picture?
I hope from this picture we can sense the peace and harmony of Christmas and feel how lucky we are to share this feeling with friends and family.

Moments of my life

Business Shower
by Felix Renaud

FELIX RENAUD



What was your inspiration?
A friend came up with the idea of taking a picture of him wearing his old jacket. We asked ourselves: How can a businessman be out of context? In a shower, of course!

What were you trying to say with your picture?
It's a funny way to describe a guy's normal morning in 2011. Everything is so fast and mechanical.

What do you hope people take away from your picture?
Whatever you do, there are only 24 hours in a day.

Relationships

Best Friend Four Leaf Hunters by Sarah Forbes

SARAH FORBES



What was your inspiration?
I was inspired by the relationship that my daughter and pet were developing.

What were you trying to say with your picture?
I was trying to capture the unspoken understanding between my daughter and pet. This photo captures the early stages of their relationship and the joy they both shared being outdoors.

What do you hope people will take away from your picture?
I am hoping people see the innocence of a young child and the love and protection our pet brings to our family.

METRO

Relationships

Silhouette Heart
by Emma Haidar

EMMA HAIDAR



What was your inspiration?
Taken on my birthday, my inspiration was to get a unique photo that shows love and the waterfront — two beautiful things in one, captured artistically.

What were you trying to say with your picture?
A silhouette is a perfect way to express something latently. The contrast makes the message stronger, in my opinion, and it showcases my husband and me, tells our love story.

What do you hope people take away from your picture?
"I hope they appreciate the artistic elements, and are inspired to take photos that tell their story without being the only subject of the image.

Moments of my life

Splash
by Laura Makaltses

LAURA MAKALTSES



What was your inspiration?
It was the very last day of summer. The sun was setting and my friends and I were still enjoying our last moments by the lake. I wanted to capture the moment.

2. What were you trying to say with your picture?
Summer doesn't last forever and we have to live every moment ... to its full potential.

What do you hope people take away from your picture?
"I hope ... people will remember some of their own holiday and summer moments. I want my photo to bring a smile to their faces."

MACINTOSH CASE NEEDS INQUIRY

URBAN COMPASS

STEPHEN KIMBER
METRO HALIFAX



I hope Nova Scotia's prosecution service will find compelling legal grounds to appeal last week's Nova Scotia Court of Appeal decision overturning Ernest Fenwick MacIntosh's conviction for sexually abusing children.

The accusations are too serious and the legal issues too important not to appeal.

But whatever the outcome of the legal process — and, indeed, without waiting for its results — Ottawa needs to launch a public inquiry into what went so horribly wrong in this case, to make sure it doesn't happen again.

The allegations against MacIntosh date back to Port Hawkesbury in the 1970s, but the complainants — some as young as 10 at the time of the incidents — understandably didn't come forward until the mid-1990s.

"At that point, the case disappeared into yet another diplomatic and bureaucratic black hole. It took Ottawa more than five years to prepare its extradition request and another three to deliver the request the 11,000 kilometres from Ottawa to New Delhi. Why?"

The RCMP formally began investigating in January 1995, five months after MacIntosh left Nova Scotia for a job in India. It's not clear whether his departure was related to those accusations, then bubbling in the community.

In December 1995, the RCMP filed the first charges against MacIntosh.

Even though they knew he was in India, it took the Mounties a year and a half to alert Canada Customs to watch for him, and Passport Canada another year to notify MacIntosh it intended to revoke his passport, which would have made it difficult for him to work and live in India.

But a federal court judge "temporarily" overturned Passport Canada's decision, in part because no one but MacIntosh presented evidence at his hearing. Where was the RCMP? And why didn't Ottawa follow up on what was supposed to be a temporary order?

In April 1998, Nova Scotia's director of Public Prosecutions asked Ottawa to ask India to send MacIntosh back to Canada for trial.

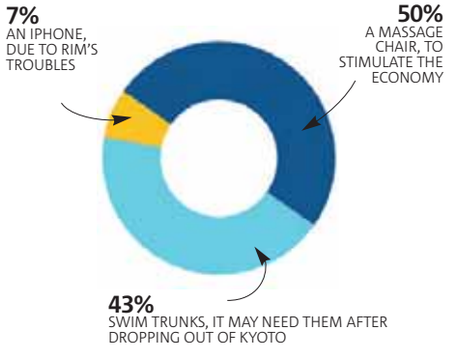
At that point, the case disappeared into yet another diplomatic and bureaucratic black hole. It took Ottawa more than five years to prepare its extradition request and another three to deliver the request the 11,000 kilometres from Ottawa to New Delhi. Why?

While all of this was not going on, there are reports MacIntosh got his passport renewed three times and travelled on at least two occasions between India and Montreal.

An inquiry? Absolutely. Regardless of what happens with the court case, there are larger questions we need answers to, before it happens again.

Metropolitan Panel
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What present would you give Canada for the holidays?



Local tweets

@tompetty: We'll see you in #Halifax, cats out of the bag now. Make sure you guys enter bit.ly/TomPettyTC

@BSommerhalder: What a glorious sunny morning in #Halifax. Good day to head to the #Hydrostone and finish (!!!) gift shopping.

@plhollingsworth: OK this is more like it: chilly but sunny - a perfect December day. And the quagmire that is my yard has frosted over. #halifax

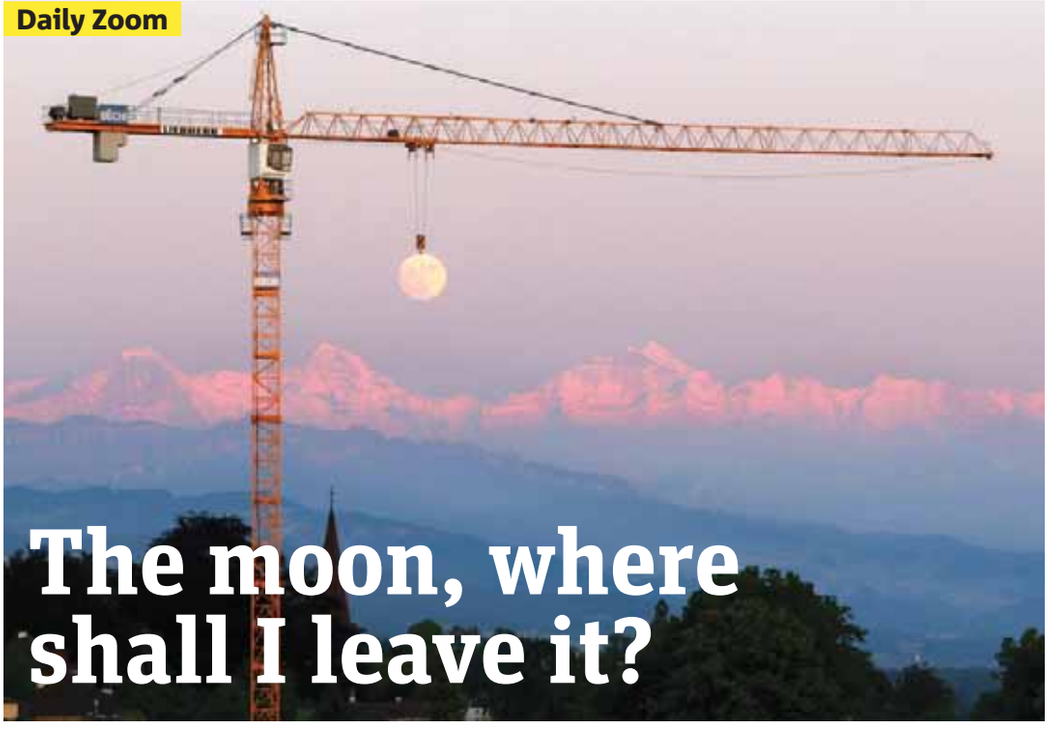
@evilpez4: In a long line up at Mic Mac Mall. Can't hear Xmas music over all the gripes. They should rename this place Whiners. #Halifax #Dartmouth

@faitherinhicks: Went to the Halifax Shopping Centre yesterday & Santa had Hipster Elves. Young elf dudes w/ mustaches & suspenders. Super cute!

@rinkrant: About to board flight for Halifax with Sea Dogs owner Scott McCain. "the Moose remind me of our team 2 years ago."

Daily Zoom

BRUNO GERBER/SOLENT NEWS



The moon, where shall I leave it?

Crane 'carries' moon in illusion

SWITZERLAND. They're good at banking, making cuckoo clocks and chocolates, and it looks like the Swiss are also handy at getting a hook onto the moon. In truth, this is just an optical illusion, an amazing example of forced-perspective photography. Bruno Gerber took this shot from his friend's roof terrace in Bern. METRO WORLD NEWS



"I waited seven minutes for the moon to rise and get 'hooked' onto the crane."
BRUNO GERBER, AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER

'Keep eyes open' for visual gag

EXPERT TIPS. The 37-year-old corporate lawyer from near Zurich offers advice on a mind-boggling image: "Keep your eyes open, think ahead (e.g., where the moon or sun will go, how a shadow moves) and don't sit idle. But I'm not a fan of overly set up, silly illusion shots with people." METRO WORLD NEWS

metro
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2 scene

Hockey heaven

Never made it out to the Hockey Hall of Fame?
Skate through the history of hockey with this new book



Fuhr-ious: Grant Fuhr wore this late model form-fitting mask while playing with the Edmonton Oliers in the early 1980's before switching to a modern mask and cage setup.



The Last Goal He Ever Scored: Toronto's Bill Barilko used this puck to score an overtime Stanley Cup winner against Gerry McNeil and the Montreal Canadiens on April 21, 1951. The goal was Barilko's last, as he and Dr. Henry Hudson, a friend, died tragically in a plane crash on their way to a fishing trip four months after the goal. The bodies of Barilko and Hudson were found 11 years later, in 1962, the same year the Leafs would next win the Cup.



The Golden Goal: Sidney Crosby of Cole Harbour, N.S., scored 7:40 into overtime of the men's gold-medal final at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics with this puck. Canada defeated the U.S. 3-2, claiming Olympic gold for the second time since 2002. The game was the most-viewed hockey game in history, and Crosby's marker gave Team Canada the most gold medals by any nation in one Winter Olympic Games.



Gordie the Great: Gordie Howe wore this jersey toward the end of his career with the Detroit Red Wings, where he played from 1946-47 to 1970-71. Over that time in Detroit Howe amassed 786 goals and 1,023 assists for a remarkable 1,809 points.



From Russia With Love: Calgary Flames jersey worn by Sergei Priakin, the first Soviet to be given permission to play in the NHL, during the 1988-89 season.



Canada's First Gold: Winnipeg Falcons Team Canada sweater worn by Konrad Johannesson at the 1920 Summer Olympics in Antwerp, Belgium, which was the first Olympics to feature hockey. Canada won gold.

Lord Stanley's Cup: The original Stanley Cup bowl, professionally engraved with the names of championship teams and amateurishly scrawled with the scratchings of championship-team members, including Fred W. Taylor (also known as "Cyclone") whose name can be seen scratched on the Cup under the "Ottawa 1904" entry. Taylor won the Cup with Ottawa in 1909 and with Vancouver in 1915.



ALL PHOTOS BY MATTHEW MANOR AND COURTESY OF FIREFLY BOOKS. TEXT PROVIDED BY FIREFLY BOOKS.

Hockey Hall of Fame Treasures

- **Editor:** Steve Cameron
- **Photographer:** Matthew Manor
- **Publisher:** Firefly Books (fireflybooks.com)
- **Price:** $39.95
- **Visit:** clubmetro.com for your chance to win a copy of this book.



Box office



The holiday spirit is eluding Hollywood. Overall domestic revenues are expected to come in below the dismal $81 million haul a week ago, which had been the low weekend so far this year. This looks like Hollywood's worst total in more than three years, going back to the weekend after Labour Day in 2008, when overall grosses finished below $70 million.

The star-filled romance New Year's Eve led this weekend with a weak $13.7 million debut. Jonah Hill's comedy The Sitter opened at No. 2 with just $10 million.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Patton Oswalt: Filming love scene with Charlize Theron for Young Adult was a 'nightmare'

Success ‘beyond anyone’s wildest dreams’

Arcade Fire coming off monumental year Triumphs continue to bring attention to Montreal music scene

It was a year in which Arcade Fire burned brightly.

The coveted Grammy Award for Album of the Year, honouring their latest release The Suburbs, kicked off a slew of honours won by the Montreal-based indie band in 2011.

By the end of the year, they had also swept the same categories at the Juno, Polaris and Brit awards, and taken home anglophone album of the year from Quebec’s L’Autre Gala de L’ADISQ.

After giving an international shout-out to their Montreal hometown at the Grammys, they also found time to say thanks to their local fans in September with a free outdoor show downtown, which packed in around 100,000 people.

And that gratitude is about to continue into the new year as the band says it’s going to invest in helping young artists while also working on their next undisclosed recording project.

“Their success has gone beyond anyone’s wildest dreams — even them, I believe,” says Dan Seligman, the creative director and co-founder of the Pop Montreal indie music festival, which hosted the outdoor concert.

Seligman, who has booked the band often during the 10 years of his festival and in other gigs, says any attention Arcade Fire gets benefits the local music scene.

“The hope is that it’ll continue to help other bands get attention and become successful, touring musicians and have careers.”

“It sort of forced a lot of people to sit up and listen and maybe pay attention a little more to what was happening in the smaller circles of music.”

MUSIC CRITIC STEVE GUIMOND ON ARCADE FIRE’S 2011 AWARD HAUL

The award haul sparked a brief amplification of the buzz around the band, which first attracted the indie scene’s spotlight to Montreal around 2004-2005 with the release of their first album, Funeral.

The New York Times profiled them while Rolling Stone even dubbed Montreal “the new Seattle” at the time.

Leah Greenblatt, a senior editor at New York-based Entertainment Weekly magazine, said that even though they had been around for a while, Arcade Fire’s Grammy win caused jaws to drop. Even the band looked stunned as TV cameras caught their reaction.

“I was shocked,” Greenblatt said, explaining that as a longtime writer on the indie music scene she had often seen her favourite artists ghettoized into indie or alternative music categories.

“I just assumed that Arcade would get the alternative album of the year,” she said, speculating that besides the quality of the album, the Grammys were trying to appeal to a younger audience this year.

“In some sense it was a really old-fashioned record because it was sort of open about being ambitious and about being thematic. They weren’t too cool to try. They were trying to make a big record and they succeeded.”

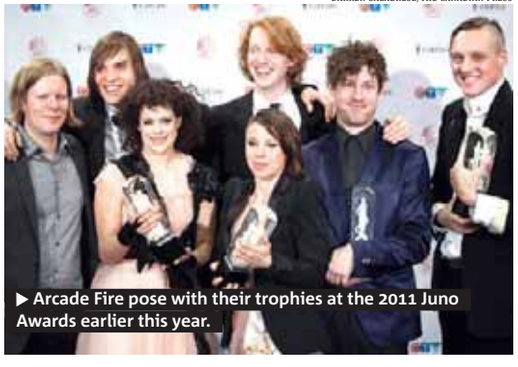
Greenblatt recalled attending the band’s party after the Grammy was announced.

“They were pretty ecstatic,” she said. “I think they were all in shock, honestly. They looked a little stunned but they were thrilled.”

Arcade Fire declined requests to discuss their big year. Their publicist said they were taking a break after a gruelling tour.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Arcade Fire pose with their trophies at the 2011 Juno Awards earlier this year.

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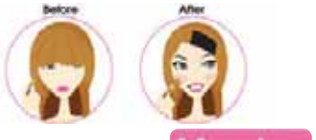
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The perils of party-rocking

- SkyBlu of LMFAO takes some time off to deal with herniated discs
- RedFoo says injury caused by 'the shuffle, the wiggle and the ladies'

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



While Demi Lovato whizzed by the press line at Z100's Jingle Ball Friday night — an annual New York City concert featuring a number of Top 40 acts — we were happy to chat with RedFoo of LMFAO, whose partner SkyBlu was noticeably absent for the big show.

"SkyBlu hurt his back," Foo told Metro before the concert started.

"He has some herniated discs. He's been performing for a while injured, because he's a true champ, but the doctor said [he's] gotta take a break. That shuffle move we do, when he does it, I always tell him you gotta bend [at the knee]. And then with the wiggle, you can't wiggle too hard, even if there's sexy ladies in the audience screaming at you — you gotta keep it confined. So we don't know exactly what has happened, but we think it's combined [with] the shuffle, the wiggle and the ladies."

But SkyBlu's injury isn't holding the group back. On their to-do list for 2012? "Films," Foo says. "Taking the whole LMFAO party rock lifestyle and putting it on the big screen."

"That shuffle move we do, when he does it, I always tell him you gotta bend [at the knee]. And then with the wiggle, you can't wiggle too hard, even if there's sexy ladies in the audience screaming at you — you gotta keep it confined."
REDFOO ON SKYBLU'S BACK INJURY



▶ RedFoo of LMFAO attends Z100's Jingle Ball on Friday.

Aniston the Sexiest Woman of All Time?



Jennifer Aniston

Men's Health has dubbed Jennifer Aniston the Sexiest Woman of All Time, but while she's flattered by their decision, Aniston insists the title would've gone to someone else if she had any say in it.

"It's a tie between Brigitte Bardot and Gloria Steinem," she tells the magazine. "But if I had to choose one, I'd say Gloria because, well, she's the full package. That's sexy."

Raquel Welch, Marilyn Monroe, Britney Spears and Madonna round out the top five on the magazine's list, while Angelina Jolie comes in at No. 10.

METRO

Celebrity tweets



@MissKellyO
i have the worlds worst head ache sitting in the dark all moody because of it!



@ElizabethBanks
This public gas station rest room is two ticks better than exactly what you're expecting.



@justinbieber
A little #hockey with the fellas



@ConanOBrien
I took my kids to see the guy in the red suit today. That's right, the Spider-Man on Hollywood Boulevard.





Flying isn't fun: Baldwin



▶ Alec Baldwin

In the wake of his being kicked off a plane for not turning off his iPhone, Alec Baldwin took to the Huffington Post to simultaneously apologize and defend himself.

"I would like to apologize to the other passengers onboard the American Airlines flight that I was thrown off of yesterday. It was never my intention to inconvenience anyone with my 'issue' with a certain flight attendant," he writes, though he insists part of the blame should go to the changes in airline service over the last 10 years.

"September 11 was a horrific day in the airline industry, yet in the wake of that event, I believe carriers and airports have used that as an excuse to make the air travel experience as inelegant as possible," he says.

METRO

This Christmas, skip the plastic one-trick, battery-operated gadgets that hold your kids' attention for five minutes These gifts are clever, fun and will spark your child's imagination

4 Great kids' gifts

TEXT **EMMA E. FORREST, METRO WORLD NEWS**

1 FOR BABY NIGHT OWLS: Lullaby rock hits



$16.98
rockabyebabymusic.com

Do saccharine nursery rhymes make you cringe? This inspired series of CDs transforms your favourite tunes into soothing lullabies, with tinkling covers of classic tracks by bands including AC/DC, Led Zeppelin, U2, Madonna, Van Halen and Bob Marley. What could more amusing than a xylophone version of Beastie Boys' No Sleep Til Brooklyn or Metallica's Enter Sandman. Or more ironic than an anxious new parent hearing The Police's Every Breath You Take?

2 FOR TINY TEETHERS: 'Where's the Bone?' cloth book



$15.50
manhattantoy.com

This book about a funny dog searching for its bone in lots of exciting places ticks all the boxes for tiny tots: lots of textures to feel, flaps to flip, bits to pull. They will love to pop the bone in the clouds, up a mountain or in the dog's mouth, and they'll love chewing on the book even more.

3 FOR CRAFTY KIDS: 'Merry Stickmas' sticker greetings cards



$8
etsy.com/shop/KidsCardKits

Sticker-mad kids will love creating their own greetings cards with these packs. These ingenious kits include blank cards and sets of stickers so your kid can create his or her own scenes including Santa Claus, snowmen, reindeer and cute kids throwing snowballs.

4 FOR AMATEUR ASTROLOGERS: Remote Control Moon



Illuminating in more ways than one, this wall light replicates the phases of the moon on an authentic moonscape (very educational), as well as serving as a reassuring nightlight. Using a remote control it can also be used as a light. It comes with an educational booklet about the moon's cycles.

3 life

Dough truths



Researchers who investigated a 2009 U.S. outbreak of foodborne illness are proving that raw cookie dough could make you sick.

Concerns about raw dough have centred on raw eggs possibly containing bacteria such as salmonella. Here, investigators looked into Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC).

The outbreak saw 35 people admitted to hospital. It was shown that 33 of the 35 ate raw cookie dough.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

It's not all 'ho, ho, ho': Santa promising less in bad economy



Holiday hazards revealed

Protect your kids against these eight potential dangers that are common during this festive time of the year

It may be a time of joy, but many familiar and prominent holiday staples could pose potential risks to the safety of children.

BC Children's Hospital and BC Ambulance Service are teaming up in their efforts to encourage parents and caregivers alike to help ensure the festive season is a safe one.

Between Dec. 23, 2010, and Jan. 5, 2011, BC Ambulance Service responded to 194 calls across the province involving patients ages 10 and under.

"With all the excitement of the holidays, some potential safety hazards can cause serious injury," said Dr. Shelina Babul, associate director and sports injury specialist at the BC Injury and Research Prevention Unit at BC Children's Hospital. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FLICKR: SCALESPEEDER



1 Toys

Choose items that match your child's age, skills and interest level. Small pieces – that can easily come off – and small batteries and magnets can cause choking and/or internal chemical burns. Toys with strings longer than 30 cm could strangle babies and toddlers.

FLICKR: KATERHA



2 Strings of electric lights

Strings of electric lights are hazardous as they are attractive to young children. They run the risk of being strangled, burned or electrocuted if they get wrapped up in the wires or put lights in their mouths.

FLICKR: L.C.NOTTAASEN



3 Candles

Even school-age kids are drawn to flames, so keep lighted candles well out of reach. Don't put lighted candles on a tablecloth or anywhere else that a child could pull down or knock over. Place menorahs on a high surface and not too close to the edge of a table.

FLICKR: STEVE P2008



4 Christmas tree location

Place your Christmas tree a good distance from any heat sources such as fireplaces, radiators or portable heaters. Cut a few centimetres off the trunk to expose fresh wood. This allows for better water absorption and will help keep your tree from becoming a hazard.

FLICKR: HARVEYBEN



5 Visiting family and friends

The homes you visit may not be child-proofed. Each year, curious toddlers choke or get poisoned by exploring and getting their hands on items not meant for children such as pills, vitamins, cosmetics and cleaning products.

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FLICKR: MRMEDIA



6 Fireplaces

A child's skin is four times thinner than an adult's and can burn four times faster. The glass of a gas fireplace heats up to 200 C (400 F) in just six minutes and takes 45 minutes to cool down. The pilot light of a gas fireplace may also heat the glass enough to cause a burn. Stay close to your child when in a room with a fireplace that is on or has recently been turned off. Block the fireplace with a hearth gate or screen that bolts into or around your fireplace, or put a safety gate in the doorway to the room with a fireplace.

FLICKR: MDID



7 Food

Children may be eating unfamiliar foods for the first time this holiday season. It's common to see more injuries in the emergency room as a result of children getting large pieces of nuts, carrots or apples stuck in their airways. Cut foods into small pieces and encourage children to sit quietly while eating, and to chew slowly. Children are less likely to choke if they chew food thoroughly before swallowing.

FLICKR: TERRYJOHNSTON



8 Tinsel, ornaments and gift wrap

While tinsel can make a tree sparkle, it's also a choking hazard for young children. Hang strands high and out of your child's reach. Also, place ornaments higher up on the tree as they can break easily and cause cuts or harm if swallowed. Be careful of holiday gift-wrapping like bags, paper, ribbons and bows. These items can strangle, suffocate or choke small children.

Vegetarian cubes of yum

Potato and red pepper are combined in this dish that works well as a tasty appetizer or a meatless meal Offer it at your next holiday party

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O



Cut cubes into bite-sized pieces or larger ones, depending on how you're serving them.

Ingredients:

- 250 ml (1 cup) each diced peeled Yukon Gold potato and sweet potato
- 25 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) diced sweet red pepper
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) diced onion
- salt and pepper
- 4 eggs
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) 18 per cent cream

Preparation:

1. On greased baking sheet, toss Yukon Gold and sweet potato with 10 ml (2 tsp) of oil. Bake in 180 C (350 F) oven 15 mins or until tender. Let cool.
2. In skillet, heat 10 ml (2 tsp) of oil over high heat; sauté red pepper 4 mins. Remove from pan. In same skillet, heat 10 ml (2 tsp) of remaining oil over medium-high heat; cook onion until tender and golden, 2 mins. Let cool. Combine all cooked vegetables; season with salt and pepper to taste.
3. In bowl with electric mixer, beat eggs with cream. Add cooked vegetables and mix. Pour into greased 2.5 L (9-inch) square baking dish. Bake in 180 C (350 F) oven for 25 minutes or until set. Let cool. Cut into cubes. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ FOODLAND ONTARIO/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. (EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)**

Rose Reisman's Swap It



With the festive season in full swing, visiting family and friends for dinner parties is common, as are hor d'oeuvres. But these treats could be full of fat or calories.

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PHYLLO PASTRY CONSISTS OF THIN SHEETS OF DOUGH THAT CONTAIN HALF THE CALORIES AND FOUR TIMES LESS FAT THAN A REGULAR CRUST. [FOR MORE, VISIT ROSEREISMAN.COM]

See french toast in new light

This appetizer combines tasty french toast, brie cheese and pears

Ingredients:

- Half baguette
- 3 eggs
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) 5% light cream
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) chopped fresh chives
- ¼ tsp (1 mL) each salt and pepper
- Pinch curry powder
- 2 tsp (10 mL) butter
- 1 ripe but firm, Bartlett pear, cored and sliced
- 100 g double cream Brie
- Fresh chives

Preparation:

1. Slice baguette on diagonal into ½ inch (1 cm) thick slices to get 12 slices; set aside.
2. In shallow dish, whisk eggs, cream, chives, salt, pepper and curry powder. Dip each slice into egg mix, turning to coat.
3. Melt butter in non-stick skillet over medium-high heat and panfry baguette slices 4 mins. turning once or until golden. Repeat with all slices.
4. Place baguette slices onto foil lined baking sheet and top with pear slices and Brie. Place pan about 6 inches (15 cm) under the broiler until cheese is melted. Garnish with chives to serve. **ONTARIO EGG FARMERS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS**





From couch to class act

Susan Sly, an entrepreneur, author, professional speaker, trainer and athlete, carries a message of motivation

TURNING POINT

TERESA KRUZE
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA



Susan Sly is a 'Have it All Woman' and she's even written a best-selling book about the subject. No one would guess that 11 years ago her life completely collapsed when she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.

She lost everything; her health, marriage and business. She was $100,000 in debt with a three-year-old child and sleeping on a family member's couch.

"I wanted to die but it was at that point where I had to make a decision. Do I want to fight or surrender?"

Susan began to heal her body and got into multi-level marketing. Today, the mother of four children is a millionaire, has written five books, is married to her high school sweetheart and is still competing in triathlons and marathons.

"I was supposed to be in a wheelchair but I'm still running. I get very emotional because I'm just so grateful and appreciative."

Susan's next goal is to empower one million women around the world. "I know what it's like to live in desperation and not know what tomorrow's going to bring. I really believe that we can transcend anything if we're open. I really do."

Have it all too!

Susan Sly's advice:

- Take time every day for gratitude.
- Keep an open mind because some of the best ideas may come through the most unlikely sources.
- If you want to make a million a year, adopt million-dollar habits. Be daring and willing to make changes happen and develop good professional instincts.
- Take time every day to read or listen to something empowering
- Be kind to yourself. It may not happen at the speed you want it to so be kind and compassionate.
- Visit stepintoyourpower.com.

Susan's stats

- First business at age 11
- Has generated over $60 million in multi-level marketing sales
- Six-time Team Canada athlete in Track and Field and Duathlon
- Competed in two world championships
- Sponsor of 20 children with World Vision



▶ Susan Sly is the author of The Have it All Woman along with four other books.

Monitoring future deforestation

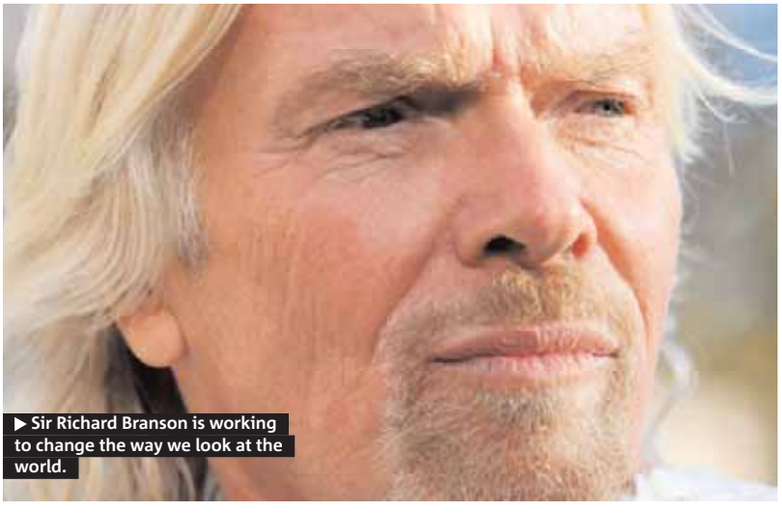
Richard Branson promises to use his satellites to keep an eye on forests Speaks to Metro about nuclear war

ELISABETH BRAW
NEWS@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Sir Richard Branson has a message: we can save our Earth from nuclear Armageddon and environmental meltdown alike.

With Cutnukes.org, Branson pushes for fewer atomic bombs. His airliners use waste as fuel, and he has created a sanctuary for Malagasy lemurs displaced by deforestation. Now he plans to monitor global deforestation with satellites, he tells Metro.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Sir Richard Branson is working to change the way we look at the world.

You're about to open a reserve for ringtailed lemurs that have been displaced by deforestation in Madagascar. Are you planning to help other species that have been displaced by deforestation?

The lemur is such a beautiful species. We simply have to save the lemurs, and I'm trying to help other species as well.

For the past several months I've travelled around the world to save sharks, and soon I'll be travelling to India to try to save the blue tiger.

When it comes to deforestation, of course humans who have been displaced are very important, but animal species are equally important. More important, actually.

Deforestation is often caused by local subsistence farmers. What's the solution?

One thing we can do about illegal logging is discover it before it's too late. That's why I've just launched a new initiative based at my spaceport. We'll run have satellites that will monitor forests to see where forests are being cut down.

You're in favour of eliminating nuclear weapons. Why should good countries get rid of their nuclear weapons when bad countries still have them?

They shouldn't completely eliminate them. What we're suggesting is that nuclear weapons states get rid of their nuclear weapons in steps. From a deterrent point of view, a country only needs 300 nuclear weapons. Getting rid of nuclear weapons would save a lot of money and would solve many of the world's current deficit problems.

In other words, is the global recession a good thing for nuclear disarmament?

Definitely. For example, one of the easiest things President Obama could do to solve the U.S. budget crisis is getting rid of 1,000 nuclear warheads.

Is your interest in nuclear weapons an extension of your green involvement?

Yes. I've been visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki to see the effects of nuclear weapons.

And it's an extension of my interest in solving global conflicts.

That's why I fund The Elders, an organization founded by Nelson Mandela that works to solve global conflicts.

The world has been talking about environmental problems for so long. Do you see any reasons for optimism?

Absolutely. We have to deal with environmental problems in an entrepreneurial spirit.

For example, Virgin's new aviation fuel uses waste from steel mills. Millions of jobs could be created worldwide by greening our cities.

The environment would benefit, the cities would benefit, regular people would benefit, and it would stop money pouring out to

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS...



GIFT CARDS GROWING IN POPULARITY

Gift cards — a phenomenon that seemed new in 2000 — have practically taken over holiday gift giving.

The vast majority of retail companies now offer them, said Brent Houlden, national retail leader for Deloitte Canada. "From the customer's point of view it's all personalization, and simplicity, and convenience," he explained.

Simply put, gift cards are the answer to an age-old problem — the unwanted gift, said Houlden.

The beauty of a gift card is that it lets the gift recipient choose exactly what they want, said Tiffany Bourré, external communications manager for Hudson's Bay Company.

"It virtually eliminates the guess work from gift purchasing," said Bourré. It also eliminates the possibility of returns (and in some cases offending the gift giver by doing so)."

That said, the gift card still needs to suit the recipient, she advised. "There is no question that gift cards have become a more accepted alternative for gift giving in general, but fair to say that often they slant to a younger demographic."

Whatever your age, on many occasions gift cards make sure that gift givers and recipients avoid embarrassment or hard feelings, said Houlden. "If you bought me the red hat and I didn't want the red hat, then you're upset because I didn't like your taste," he explained. "That's why gift cards have taken off so much."

The only problem is that they can seem a little impersonal, said Houlden.

"If I'm giving you a wedding gift and I just give you cash, there's no emotional connection there," Houlden said. People want to be remembered for the gifts they give, he explained.

Now companies are looking for ways that gift givers can easily personalize their gift cards — digitally. In the next few years we'll see techologies tailored to allowing gift givers to send a personalized photo or video along with their gift cards, said Houlden.

Buyers can also get gift cards online without having to set foot in a store. Many brands have them available to purchase online, so they're easy to send to faraway friends and family.

The future is mobile and the days of the plastic gift card are numbered, said Houlden. "One person will send a gift card to another electronically and it'll just load into the gift recipient's cell phone," he predicted.

"I think it's the next generation that people should be watching for."

GIFT CARD TIPS

GET A CARD FOR LESS
Make sure you negotiate a discount if you buy in bulk.

BUY DISCOUNTED ITEMS
Boxing Day!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF RELOADING DISCOUNTS
Starbucks, for example, gives customers the option of automatically reloading, and rewards them for it with free drinks.

PERSONALIZE
Include a homemade card or recorded message (e.g. Christmas carol) to send your best wishes.

HOW TO GET MORE OUT OF GIFT CARDS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

STRETCHING YOUR BUDGET

For the fifth year in a row, gift cards top the list of most popular presents to receive. But before you stock up on these holiday favourites, make sure you're getting the most for your money. Frances Ho, founder of CardSwap, Canada's leading site for buying and selling gift cards, offers these expert tips for stretching your budget a little further:

- **Turn points from loyalty programs such as Air Miles or Aeroplan into gift cards.**
- **Browse sites such as CardSwap.ca (for Canada) or Plastic Jungle (U.S. only) to find gift cards for 10 to 15 per cent below face value.**
- **Avoid overspending: Use a prepaid Visa card to purchase all your gifts. Once the card is depleted, you are done!**
- **When you receive gift cards, save them for Boxing Day or early January. That's when stores offer their best deals, so your card has more buying power.**
- **Don't waste your gift cards by letting them sit in a drawer. If you haven't redeemed them by February, consider converting them to cash through a site like CardSwap.ca.**

Ho also suggests rounding up old gift cards and selling them online to make some quick holiday cash. She says the average family has several unused cards lying around the house — and they could see as much as 92 per cent of that face value. That could offer a welcome boost to this year's gift-giving budget. Happy Shopping!

SAVE UP TO 25% buy discounted GIFT CARDS
CASH UP TO 95% sell unwanted GIFT CARDS
CardSwap
CardSwap.ca - Canada's #1 place to buy and sell gift cards.
Here is $5
Towards a gift card from any store*
Post picture of this coupon on www.facebook.com/CardSwap to redeem and for details.
* valid toward any gift card available on CardSwap, which offers discounted gift cards from over 300 of Canada's largest retailers.



OUR FINEST NOTRE EXCELLENCE

WHAT IS IT?
A new line of delectable foods from Walmart. They're easy to prepare and affordable — appetizers starting at $5 a box.

WHAT MAKES OUR FINEST DELICIOUS?
Recipes are made with high quality ingredients and were carefully chosen by a team of food experts.

THE FOOD
Find almost 100 dishes from wonton-wrapped shrimp to grain-fed young turkeys, basted with real butter to cocoa-dusted Belgian truffles.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING MADE EASY WITH OUR FINEST

HIGH QUALITY FOODS EXCLUSIVE TO WALMART



Canadians don't want to sacrifice quality when they celebrate with family and friends this holiday season, said Sandra Farwell, director of private brands — foods for Walmart Canada.

That's why the company is introducing Our Finest, a new line of delectable high-quality foods exclusive to Walmart, said Farwell.

"Many Canadians are staying in this holiday, and that equals a lot of home cooking and entertaining," said Farwell.

Our Finest costs less than the national leading brands — appetizers start as low as $5 a box. "Entertaining should be easy and affordable," insisted Farwell.

FROM THE OUR FINEST MENU:

APPETIZERS
Farwell suggests starting the party with melt-in-your-mouth pastry appetizers, like the Our Finest salmon and dill in puff pastry or cheese and applewood smoked bacon mini tarts.

Authentic international favourites like mini vegetable samosas with tamarind sauce ($5), Greek spanakopita ($5), or an assortment of Angus beef, Italian, and Swedish meatballs ($8) are also a popular pre-dinner indulgence.



DRINKS
Find the perfect drink for the occasion from the wide selection of non-alcoholic sparkling beverages including mojito, sangria, and margarita ($2.77 for a pack of four).

MAIN COURSE
A tantalizing centrepiece to any holiday table, the Our Finest spiral ham is cured and naturally smoked with hickory chips. It comes pre-cooked and pre-sliced, with an easy-to-prepare glaze, so it's great for those who want to spend less time cooking and more time relaxing with friends and family.

DESSERT
The Our Finest chocolate and toffee collection ($8.97), the all-natural English wine gums ($4.98) and liquorice allsorts ($4.98) make a beautiful statement on a tiered serving dish, and provide enough variety to tickle the taste buds of all your guests.

Try finishing off the feast with the Our Finest candy cane ice cream ($4.97), made with real dairy cream, mint chocolate bark, and candy cane pieces.

"We're confident Canadians will be proud to serve these items as part of their festivities," Farwell said.



HOW TO HOST A GREAT PARTY

KEEP IT SIMPLE
Sometimes the simplest dishes are the most delicious, and fine pre-prepared foods are perfect for taking the pressure off if you don't have much time to spare.

KNOW YOUR GUESTS
Understand your guests' likes and dislikes, and make sure to provide vegetarian options.

PRE-PREP
Get ready well before the party starts — the slicing and dicing, the food presentation, the decorating.

CREATE A MOOD WITH FESTIVE NAPKINS, PLATES, CUTLERY & GLASSES
Accent your home with festive candleholders, serving dishes, and other decorative touches to create a warm holiday atmosphere.

COMPILE THE PERFECT SOUNDTRACK
Consider the musical tastes of your guests, throw in some old favourites, and mix it up a little. Variety is key.

RELAX AND ENJOY THE PARTY
Make the time to chat with your guests. That's what really makes a great party — the good company and scintillating conversation.

Not sure what to get them this Christmas?
How about everything.





This Christmas give them the *Gift of Choice* with a Walmart Gift Card.



Creating happy holiday moments.
Walmart. Save money. Live better.

See store for details.

Carte-cadeau
Walmart TM/MC
Gift Card

A CANADIAN RETAIL ICON IS READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

SEARS' GIFT CARDS OFFER CHOICE, FLEXIBILITY

In 1953, General Robert E. Wood, the legendary Chairman of Sears Roebuck, and Co., Chicago, sent a letter to Edgar G. Burton, President of the Robert Simpson Company of Toronto, to propose a partnership between their two companies in order to serve the Canadian market.

Today — almost 60 years later — Sears Canada is a multi-channel retailer with a network that includes 196 corporate stores, 285 hometown dealer stores, 31 home services showrooms, more than 1,700 catalogue merchandise pick-up locations, 108 Sears Travel offices and a nationwide home maintenance, repair, and installation network. Sears also publishes Canada's most extensive general merchandise catalogue and offers shopping online at sears.ca.

YES, WISHES DO COME TRUE — AT SEARS

Something that hasn't changed in six decades is Sears Canada's ability to make wishes come true, especially at Christmas time. Who's not familiar with the Sears Holiday Wish Book and the sight of a Sears store festively turned out for the Christmas season?

What has changed in 60 years is the Sears ability to stay current and relevant for Canadian consumers, including a strong online presence that's open 24/7 at sears.ca. If there's no time to visit the Sears store, busy moms and dads strapped for time can find almost anything online. And, for those hard-to-by-for individuals, Sears offers gift cards that offer choice and flexibility when it comes to gift giving. Sears gift cards can be purchased and redeemed across different channels, including stores, online as well as through the catalogue.

CHOICE, CHOICE AND MORE CHOICE

"Cards can be redeemed towards almost anything Sears has to offer," says Carla Seaquist, Product Manager, Gift Cards. "That includes purchases made in our stores, for your next travel destination, for a new roof or windows, or for your next family photo shoot." The choices don't end there.

Along with its proprietary gift cards, Sears also sells third-party gift cards. "We now offer everything from iTunes and Petro-Canada cards to Chapters Indigo and long-distance calling cards. You could say that we are a destination for gift cards. We've also partnered with Life Experiences.ca — the Canadian leader in experience gifts. There's no need to go anywhere else for your gift," says Seaquist.



THE PERFECT GIFT IS IN THE CARDS

WITH THE BUFFET OF GIFT CARDS OUT THERE, WHY CHOOSE SEARS?

GET PERSONAL

Sears offers a website (searsgiftcards.ca) where you can upload your favourite family photo and have it printed on a gift card. It's a great way to send someone a personalized gift right to his or her door. And why not select a special tin online to dress up your gift? If you don't have that perfect holiday family picture yet, there's also a link along with a special offer to Sears Portrait Studio where you can have your pictures saved on a CD. This way you can upload your pictures and use them on the personalized website to create a unique card.

NO FEES, NO EXPIRATION DATE

With Sears gift cards, you don't pay any additional fees nor do you have to worry about expiration dates (because there aren't any!). Gift cards are accepted at all Sears Department, Hometown, Outlet and Home Furnishing stores as well as through all of their service agents such as Sears Travel, Home Services and select licensed departments.

FLEXIBILITY

Gift cards are available in denominations ranging from $10 up to $500. There are many designs from which to choose — from the simple and elegant to the fun and festive. You can select one of the existing designs or create your own through the personalized gift card service. If you're a business looking for gift cards: Sears has a team that will deliver your holiday needs, just call 1-866-297-5306 or visit searsincentives.ca.

GIFT CARD PAIRINGS

If you love the idea of giving a card, but want to add an extra something special, you'll find some fun and interesting gift-card pairings available through Sears, for example, for $3.99 you can purchase Bosely™ the Beaver and Help support youth in your community, 50¢ from every sale will go to programs that promote the healthy development of youth.

THE IDEAL BUSINESS OR WORK GIFT

Sears Incentives Gift Cards are the perfect solution to reward employees, show appreciation to clients or customers, mark special occasions and so much more. Cards are available in any denomination from $5 to $500. Volume rebates are available for bulk purchases. For more information, please call 1-866-297-5306 or visit searsincentives.ca.



Sears

© 2011. Sears Canada Inc.

gift cards to fulfill every WISH

CREATE YOUR OWN CARD!
VISIT **SEARSGIFTCARDS.CA**

1 UPLOAD IMAGE 2 ADD YOUR MESSAGE 3 ORDER CARD

GIVE THEM WHAT THEY REALLY WANT

INDIGO GIFT CARDS REDEEMABLE IN-STORE, ONLINE

With Indigo gift cards, it's easy to give the gift they really want, redeemable both in-store and online, in both physical and electronic formats. Easy to give, easy to use on your favourite books, gifts and toys.

One of the easiest ways to exchange gifts this season is with Indigo's electronic gift cards. Conveniently purchased from Indigo's website, the electronic gift card is emailed directly to your recipient on a selected date. Choose from eight colourful holiday themes, in amounts from $2-$500. The traditional gift card, in amounts of $25, $50 and $100, is delivered right to your recipient's doorstep. All gift cards may be redeemed at Indigo, Chapters, Coles, kobo.com and indigo.ca.

What are this season's hottest gift items to redeem your gift cards? Indigo's annual best books list provides an easy gift inspiration for holiday shoppers. And teen books remain the biggest selling category behind adult fiction at Indigo and Chapters stores nationally.

But Indigo isn't just about books. "Indigo is Canada's largest purveyor of ideas and inspiration, at the heart of which is books and eReading but also includes a vast array of specialty toys, gifts and beautifully designed and affordable home décor that offer intrinsic quality, beauty and timelessness of design," says Janet Eger, Vice-president of public relations.

Another popular choice when redeeming gift cards this season is the Kobo family of eReaders, including the Kobo Vox Colour eReader, Kobo Touch WiFi, and the Kobo WiFi, as well as a range of stylish accessories. The new Kobo Vox is a 7-inch colour tablet pre-loaded with all the essentials including email, Web and media players and more than 15,000 Android Apps available.

Lots of great gifts for kids, tweens and teens can be purchased with the gift card. This holiday season, Canadians will be seeking unique and affordable gifts that touch the heart, mind and soul of every child on their list. Situated within Indigo and Chapters stores, IndigoKids shops boast 3,000 square feet of books and toys for children under 12 years old.



FREE SHIPPING ACROSS CANADA FOR PURCHASES OVER $25

In time for the busy holiday shopping season, Indigo's website features an easy and convenient online shopping destination for Canadians, where purchases over $25 ship free to anywhere in the country. Find out what products your friends "like" and "share" with Indigo's Facebook activity feed. Visit indigo.ca, become a fan at facebook.com/chaptersindigo, or follow Indigo on Twitter at twitter.com/chaptersindigo. "We're transforming our retail and online experience from a traditional bookstore to that of a unique retail experience that enriches customers' lives," says Janet Eger, vice-president of public relations.

Did you know that when you purchase a gift card holder, you're contributing to the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation? Choose from numerous styles and price points of gift card holders, from $1 sleeves to $4.99 plush bears and faux leather books in between at $1.99, with a portion of proceeds benefiting the Love of Reading Foundation.

The mission of the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation is to give every child a strong literacy foundation, providing $1.5 million in grants each year to high-needs elementary schools across Canada. And each fall, Indigo partners with the Foundation to host Indigo Adopt-A-School, where stores select a partner school to help replenish their libraries.

For every $25 gift card purchased, Indigo made a $12 donation to the adopted school.

Indigo gift cards are also one of the most appreciated gifts for teachers. Many people may not realize that, according to a Canadian Teacher's Federation study, teachers contributed an average of $453 per year on classroom materials that will not be reimbursed. So it's no wonder that according to a 2010 Indigo survey, nine out of 10 teachers preferred to receive gift cards from Indigo for Christmas and year-end "thank you" gifts.

TWEET YOUR SHOPPING LIST

Could you use some social networking help with your Christmas shopping list? Indigo has just launched #IndigoGiftSOS. Users can tweet their gifting dilemma and append the hashtag #IndigoGiftSOS to receive tailored recommendations from the little elves at Indigo. Followers can use #IndigoGiftSOS all the way through Dec. 24.

MUST-READ BOOKS

Indigo's book buying team reads hundreds of titles every year to create a compilation of must-read books. Here's Indigo's best of 2011 list:



HALF-BLOOD BLUES
Esi Edugyan – winner 2011 Scotiabank Giller Prize

THE CAT'S TABLE
Michael Ondaatje – Ondaatje's most personal





THE SISTERS BROTHERS
Patrick Dewitt – winner 2011 Governor Generals' Literary Award for Fiction

THE NIGHT CIRCUS
Erin Morgenstern – a totally original, enchanting debut





THE SENSE OF AN ENDING
Julian Barnes – winner 2011 Man Booker Prize

THE ART OF FIELDING
Chad Harbach – a perfect book for Dad





1Q84
Haruki Murakami – long awaited masterpiece; taut, mind-bending story

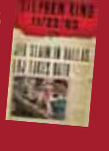
THE HOUSE OF SILK
Anthony Horowitz – the first Sherlock Holmes story authorized by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's estate





SWAMPLANDIA!
Karen Russell – a quirky, spooky book from a young writer to watch

11/22/63
Stephen King – speculative fiction reviving vintage Stephen King





REAMDE
Neal Stephenson – an action-packed thriller driven by ideas and questions



MORE *choice*. LESS WRAPPING.

The Indigo gift card. The card everyone loves to receive.
Redeemable on books, ebooks, gifts, toys and more.

Indigo | Chapters | Coles | indigo.ca

Your one stop holiday shop

Need last-minute gift advice? Tweet your request using #IndigoGiftSOS for suggestions from experts!



The Windsor Home Hardware complex is a 37,000 square foot facility, which also includes a furniture store, café and an authorized Bell Aliant dealer.

A ONE-STOP DESTINATION

AT THE WINDSOR HOME HARDWARE, CUSTOMERS CAN FIND A LOT MORE THAN JUST HARDWARE PRODUCTS.

"We feel we have a truly unique shopping experience here," says owner Jeff Redden. "We have really become our own shopping destination."

Besides the Home Hardware, the 37,000 square foot facility also includes a furniture store, café and an authorized Bell Aliant dealer.

Located 35 minutes from metro in Windsor, this detail might make some people hesitant about making the trip, but Redden says it is just as easy to get to and from Windsor Home Hardware than it is to a retailer in Halifax because there isn't any traffic in driving to Windsor.

"We find we're just as convenient as any of the retailers in metro," he says.

The trip is also made easier by the fact that delivery trips are made to metro every Thursday for a nominal charge.

For people worried about installation, Windsor Home Hardware offers installation services for everything it sells.

One of the benefits of offering an environment where hardware and furniture is available is that it allows more products from the hardware store to be displayed.

"One of the nice things about our furniture side is that all those houseware and home décor items that are hard to display in the aisle of a hardware store, we can get them on the tables and hutches in the furniture store," says Redden.

The furniture store places an emphasis on selling furniture that is made in Canada and includes lines by Stylus Sofas, Brentwood Classics, Campio Furniture and Canadel.

There is also an art gallery in store which features original works of art by artists from Hants County.

Gift cards are also available for purchase, which can be used at both the hardware and furniture stores.

CHRISTMAS LAND A POPULAR ATTRACTION

At Christmas time at the Windsor Home Hardware, the seasonal lawn and garden centre turns into Christmas Land, a 2,000 square foot space filled with decorated Christmas trees and Christmas décor.

"People do come from quite afar just to see this every year," says owner Jeff Redden.





Mic Mac Mall is offering free photos with Santa this year.

FINDING THE RIGHT GIFT IS EASY AT MIC MAC MALL

GIFT GIVING CAN BE A COMPLICATED PROCESS, BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE.

"To make gift giving easy this year, our Mic Mac Mall gift cards are a very easy and convenient choice," says Rebecca Logan, the marketing director at Mic Mac Mall.

There are lots of reasons to consider purchasing a gift card from Mic Mac Mall.

"You know for sure that the person who receives it is going to benefit from them and use them," says Logan. "There's no risk of any returns or any sort of disappointment because ultimately, the end user can choose what they want."

For people shopping who are not aware of what someone's style or size is, a gift card is the perfect option. With close to 160 stores and services at Mic Mac Mall, the gift cards can be used at about 93 per cent of the establishments. (A full listing of the establishments that do not accept gift cards can be found at micmacmall.com.)

With such variety, there is a wide range of purchase options for people to choose from. Some of these options include fashion, electronics, footwear and home goods.

STAYING OPEN LONGER TO SERVE YOU BETTER

During December, Mic Mac Mall will be having extended hours on weekends. On Saturdays leading up to Christmas — with the exception of Christmas Eve — the mall will be open until 10 p.m., as opposed to its usual closing time of 9 p.m. On Sundays, Mic Mac Mall will remain open until 8 p.m., rather than 5 p.m.

Gift cards will be available for purchase right up until closing time on Christmas Eve, which is 5 p.m.

Mic Mac Mall gift cards are available for purchase from Guest Services, which is located on the lower level. On Dec. 9, a satellite kiosk across from Shoppers Drug Mart will be set up and it will also sell gift cards throughout the holidays.

Santa will also be on hand at Mic Mac Mall seven days a week, which makes Mic Mac Mall the only property in HRM to offer daily appearances by Santa. Perhaps even more impressive is that photos with Santa are free and are e-mailed directly to the shopper.

Mrs. Claus will also be on hand on weekends and she will be busy walking around and chatting with children.

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING

Holiday Gift Cards



ATLANTIC NEWS OFFERS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



Atlantic News carries Metro's best selection of magazines.

When talking about Atlantic News, co-owner Michele Gerard has a simple way of talking about the establishment.

"We carry what other people don't carry," she says.

With roughly 5,000 different magazine titles in stock, Atlantic News carries all of the well-known publications one can find elsewhere, but its extensive selection means it also carries many obscure, hard to find magazines.

Chances are, if you have an interest in something, there's a magazine to correspond with that interest.

"There really is a magazine for everybody," says Gerard, noting some recent additions include a magazine devoted to mermaids and mythology, as well as one about women's roller derby.

Part of what makes magazines so wonderful is that the interest one has can really be narrowed down. Consider a subject like music, which has many different branches to it. At Atlantic News, it has music magazines covering specific genres such as opera, choir and organ, country, heavy metal, plus much more.

Not surprisingly, Atlantic News is a great place for gift options and it offers gift certificates available in any denomination.

One of the unique offerings available at Atlantic News is called Newspaper Direct. This service gives customers access to over 1,900 daily newspapers from 95 countries. There are even 51 different languages available and Atlantic News is the only retailer to provide this service in Nova Scotia.

Gerard says it takes approximately seven minutes to print a paper — which is printed on 11 x 17 paper — and costs about $5 on average.

BEDFORD PLACE MALL THE PERFECT PLACE FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPING

With 55 retailers to choose from, the Bedford Place Mall is an excellent place to do your holiday shopping.

"I think you'd be hard pressed to find a category we don't cover," says general manager Andrew Jones.

The Bedford Place Mall is located on the Bedford Highway and the anchor tenant is a Zellers.

As part of the holidays, Bedford Place Mall is extending its hours on Saturday evenings and will remain open until 9 p.m., rather than the usual 6 p.m. These extended hours will apply until Saturday, Dec. 17. On Christmas Eve, the mall will only remain open until 5 p.m.

One important tradition of the holidays is photos with Santa. Santa will be at the Bedford Place Mall until Dec. 23, at which time he will be heading off to the North Pole.

"We are of the mind that we have the best Santa in Atlantic Canada, perhaps nationally," says Jones. "He is absolutely terrific."

All proceeds from this initiative go to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation's Ride for the Cure.

To help make the gift giving process easier, gift certificates are available for purchase at customer service and are valid at all of the mall's retailers. They are available in denominations of $5, $10, $20 and $50.

Another service which helps make things run a little smoother is the gift wrapping services the Bedford Place Mall offers. For this initiative, all of the proceeds go to the Canadian Cancer Society.





ATLANTIC NEWS

Many Marvelous Magazines.

"A place to pursue your passion; it's a toy store for adults."

- Peter Lanyon, *Creative Brand & Advertising Consultant, Halifax, Boston, Vancouver, Toronto*

Something for everyone on your shopping list...

Gift Certificates | **Stocking Stuffers** | **Unique Holiday Gift Cards**

429.5468 • Morris & Queen • atlanticnews.ns.ca

'TIS THE SEASON!



$1,500, $1,000 & $500

SHOPPING SPREES UP FOR GRABS!

YOU'LL FIND EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON UNDER ONE ROOF PLUS LOTS OF FREE PARKING!

BALLOTS AVAILABLE FROM CUSTOMER SERVICE. DRAWS WILL TAKE PLACE ON **NOVEMBER 28** ($500), **DECEMBER 5** ($1,000) AND **DECEMBER 19** ($1,500).

BEDFORDPLACEMALL.COM
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Bedford Place Mall
You'll find it here.

OPENING HOURS: Mon – Fri 9:30am – 9:00pm | Sat 9:30am – 9:00pm (Extended holiday hours) | Sun 12 noon – 5:00pm

CLOTHING A POPULAR OPTION AT GREEN DIAMOND EQUIPMENT

WHEN PEOPLE THINK OF JOHN DEERE, TRACTORS ARE WHAT IMMEDIATELY COME TO MIND.

For Stephani Allison, that's a little misconception she'd like to clear up.

"We're not just a place to buy big tractors and lawn tractors," says the Marketing Director for Green Diamond Equipment in the Bayers Lake Business Park. "We have something for everybody, right from little kids to kitchen decor, to just about anything that has to do with John Deere."

For children, this wide range of offerings includes things such as sippy cups, toys, bicycles and tricycles. For the kitchen, this includes dinner sets, clocks and insulated coffee mugs.

Green Diamond Equipment even sells 12-volt battery operated ride-on tractors for children, which are a very popular option during the holidays. They retail for around $450 and Allison says they are sized to fit children who are up to the age of eight.

"We usually sell out of those during the holidays," she notes.

Clothing is another popular option and Green Diamond sells articles like T-shirts, hoodies, hats, toques, belts and belt buckles.

With the recent dip in temperatures, generators and snow blowers may be on the mind. Allison says Green Diamond carries generators of all sizes and the price starts out at around $700. Meanwhile, the price for snow blowers starts out at about $1,000.

"They come with hand warmers and headlights and all kinds of options," says Allison.

Although Green Diamond specializes in John Deere, it does carry other product lines.

"We have a huge outfitters department where we carry hunting and fishing supplies," says Allison, noting it also carries gear made by Under Armour for hunting and fishing.

Perfect for the season, Green Diamond offers gift cards that can be redeemed at any of its nine locations in the Maritimes.



Green Diamond Equipment offers gift options for people of all ages.

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED

Located at 270 Horseshoe Lake Dr. in the Bayers Lake Business Park, Green Diamond Equipment is found in the upper end of the park on the same side of the street and near Access Nova Scotia and RONA. The location features plenty of free parking and is accessible by Metro Transit.

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING

Holiday Gift Cards



JOHN DEERE the leaping Deere symbol and the green and yellow color scheme are property of Deere and company

JOHN DEERE

Green DIAMOND EQUIPMENT

270 Horseshoe Lake Drive

Bayers Lake

902-450-0712

www.green-diamond.ca



Lily's Lingerie carries an extensive stock of bras that use European sizing.

FINDING THE PERFECT BRA

IT IS BELIEVED THAT 80 PER CENT OF WOMEN WEAR BRAS THAT DO NOT FIT THEM PROPERLY.

This can lead to sagging breast tissue, indents on the shoulders, and back and neck pain.

If you are experiencing these problems, there is a solution.

Lily's Lingerie, located at 5411 Spring Garden Rd., is Halifax's premier choice for helping women find the right bra for their bodies. Lily's offers complimentary bra fittings to ensure women find the perfect bra. The fitting only takes a few minutes, and customers walk out the door looking and feeling better.

One of the reasons many women in North America wear poorly fitted bras is that the sizing system has little selection. Many women simply can't find their size. Lily's has an extensive stock of bras that use the European sizing — ranging from 30A to 44N — so it has the right bra for women of all shapes and sizes.

Lily's also stocks chemises, silk pyjamas, hosiery, sports bras, nursing bras, bustiers, housecoats and lingerie.

Gift cards from Lily's are a popular option for the holidays and can be purchased in any denomination. They allow women to have a proper fitting and get a bra that will be both flattering and functional.

The staff at Lily's is helpful and professional, ensuring the shopping experience is a pleasant and memorable one where you will leave with a product that suits your needs.

Lily's

The Bra Fitting Specialists

Gift Certificates Available
Open Sundays 12-5 until Christmas
Also offering a wide selection of Swimwear
Watch for our Live Mannequins

Aubade | Empreinte | Juicy Couture | Lise Charmel | Felina | Ulla | Antinea | Shan

Like us on Facebook

5411 Spring Garden | 422-0161 | lilyslingerie@hotmail.com



HOW TO GET MORE OUT OF GIFT CARDS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

FOR THE FIFTH YEAR IN A ROW, GIFT CARDS TOP THE LIST OF MOST POPULAR PRESENTS TO RECEIVE.

But before you stock up on these holiday favourites, make sure you're getting the most for your money. Frances Ho, founder of CardSwap, Canada's leading site for buying and selling gift cards, offers these expert tips for stretching your budget a little further:

1. Turn points from loyalty programs such as Air Miles or Aeroplan into gift cards.

2. Browse sites such as CardSwap.ca (for Canada) or Plastic Jungle (U.S. only) to find gift cards for 10 to 15 per cent below face value.

3. Avoid overspending: Use a prepaid Visa card to purchase all your gifts. Once the card is depleted, you are done!

4. When you receive gift cards, save them for Boxing Day or early January. That's when stores offer their best deals, so your card has more buying power.

5. Don't waste your gift cards by letting them sit in a drawer. If you haven't redeemed them by February, consider converting them to cash through a site like CardSwap.ca.

Ho also suggests rounding up old gift cards and selling them online to make some quick holiday cash. She says the average family has several unused cards lying around the house — and they could see as much as 92 per cent of that face value. That could offer a welcome boost to this year's gift-giving budget.

Happy Shopping!

THE ART OF DISGUISE: EIGHT WAYS TO WRAP A GIFT CARD

GIFT CARDS — THE MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR BUSINESS THAT JUST KEEPS GROWING.

From the food and wine aficionado to the fashionista there's a perfect gift card for everyone. Buyers need not worry about the gift being the right colour or size because it's a "one size fits all" label. And recipients love the ease and flexibility.

But how does the giver, in keeping with the spirit and mystery of Christmas, disguise the card, maintain the element of surprise and make it exciting for the recipient?

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Purchase plastic gift card holders on the Internet. Not all that original but certainly useful and easy to wrap.

2. Use cardboard tubing from finished rolls of paper towel and wrapping paper to make containers and then wrap them up like festive firecrackers.

3. Tape cards inside picture frames. You might already have an unused one at home or you can pick one up at the dollar store.

4. Enclose your card in a small box wrapped in a colourful tea towel. Affix a plastic knife and fork to the package and finish with a big, showy bow.

5. Tuck the gift card in a small basket, hiding it among theme-related items. Enclose the basket in clear or coloured cellophane bags and fasten it with ribbon.

6. Enclose the gift card in a CD case. Design a cover with graphics and a snappy title related to the card.

7. Place the card into a coffee mug and cover it with small packages of candies and nuts.

8. Tape inside a book and include a note on the front cover referring the recipient to the particular page.

Now sit back and relax, knowing your secret is safe.





THE ONE-STOP CREATIVE SHOP

At Atlantic Fabrics, there's a gift waiting for that creative special someone in your life.

Whether they're into sewing, quilting, knitting, jewellery or crafting.

"At this time of year, we're finding people are looking for gift suggestions for Christmas and we are very happy to provide suggestions," says owner Kathy Dean.

Located at the Woodlawn Staples Plaza at 114 Woodlawn Rd. in Dartmouth, one option is a gift certificate, which Atlantic Fabrics offers in any denomination. These can be redeemed for merchandise or one of the many classes Atlantic Fabrics offers.

"We have two classrooms in our Dartmouth location and we have beginner, intermediate and more advanced classes," says Dean.

For people who would like to learn the particulars of these creative passions on their own, Atlantic Fabrics also has a large selection of instructional books. In particular, the largest selection is for quilting and sewing books.

Atlantic Fabrics is the Baby Lock dealer for metro and the surrounding area. Baby Lock has a large selection of sewing, quilting and embroidery machines, plus sergers.

"There are many different styles available," says Dean, "and we welcome the opportunity to show you the many features of our Baby Lock line-up."

Stocking stuffers are another popular option at Atlantic Fabrics and it carries all the latest and newest tools of the trade, as well as the basics like scissors and rotary cutters, rulers and lights. Creative people have lots of gadgets that they need to keep safe and organized, so sewing baskets, bags and boxes are other popular options.

Dean says the store is well stocked for Christmas, but adds that special orders are still an option for certain products.



4 sports

Frk's scoring touch returns

Mooseheads avoid three-game losing streak, improve to 20-9-3 ◐ Trail QMJHL and division-leading Sea Dogs by 10 points ◐ Sit sixth in overall league standings



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



▶ Mooseheads forward Andrew Ryan takes a shot on Sea Dogs goalie Sebastien Auger during the second period at the Metro Centre yesterday.

Martin Frk says he never imagined it would take him until Dec. 11 to score his first goal of the QMJHL season.

But in just his third game back after being shelved for almost four months with a concussion, the 18-year-old right-winger made his first goal count by netting the winner in the Halifax Mooseheads' 3-2 win over the QMJHL-leading Saint John Sea Dogs yesterday at the Metro Centre.

Frk, the team's top returning scorer, ripped one home on a power-play rebound with 4:24 to go to put the Mooseheads up 3-1.

"For me, it's a big goal because it's the winning goal," said Frk, who had no points, three shots and a minus-3 in his first two games back.

"I was so happy for that goal, and we beat Saint John, a great team."

The win saved the Mooseheads from their first three-game losing streak of the season after falling 7-3 to the Sea Dogs on Saturday in Saint John and 6-1 to the P.E.I. Rocket on Friday in Charlottetown. It also ended the Sea Dogs' 15-game winning streak against the Mooseheads dating back to December 2009.

With leading scorer Nathan MacKinnon sidelined for the second straight game because of a shoulder injury, 18-year-old forward Matthew Boudreau stepped up with two goals and one assist and was named the game's first star.

"When Nate's not there I have to step up a bit and today I think I did what I could to help the team."

MOOSEHEADS FORWARD MATTHEW BOUDREAU ON SCORING TWO GOALS AND ONE ASSIST IN A FIRST-STAR PERFORMANCE IN THE ABSENCE OF LEADING SCORER NATHAN MACKINNON

"They've had our number a lot," said Boudreau. "We had to respond today to have a better weekend, and grab two points out of them and maybe catch up to them a bit. It's a huge win and everyone is really proud."

20
Number of wins the Mooseheads have through 32 games this season. That matches their season-long 68-game total from last season.

Frk, who has not yet decided whether he's in good enough shape to attend the Czech Republic's world junior camp starting Dec. 17 in Lethbridge, Alta., said the goal lifted a weight from his shoulders.

"I thought I'd score in P.E.I., and in P.E.I., no score, then in Saint John, no score, and here, I scored in front of all the fans," Frk said. "I'm very happy. I feel better when I score goals so I hope I score a couple of more before Christmas."

Quoted



"That was probably one of my most memorable games as a Rocket. To get six against my childhood team, and one of the top teams in the league, it's definitely pretty special."

LOWER SACKVILLE'S BEN DUFFY, AFTER SCORING FOUR GOALS AND TWO ASSISTS ON FRIDAY TO LEAD THE LAST-PLACE P.E.I. ROCKET TO A 6-1 WIN OVER THE HALIFAX MOOSEHEADS IN QMJHL PLAY.

High-octane Rainmen climbing NBL ranks

The Halifax Rainmen are on a three-game winning streak and working their way up the National Basketball League of Canada standings.

The Rainmen turned in their best defensive effort of the season on Saturday night at the Metro Centre with a 97-83 win over the second-place Quebec Kebs.

The Rainmen have not only won three straight, they've won six of eight and their 6-4 record leaves them tied for third overall, 2 ½ behind the first-place London Lightning (10-3).

116
The Rainmen's average points per game so far this season, tops in the NBL Canada.

Fifth-year Rainmen forward Eric Crookshank had a team-high 17 points on Saturday, while Justin Johnson and Joey Haywood had 15 apiece.

The Rainmen visit the Summerside Storm on Thursday and return to Halifax next Sunday to host the Oshawa Power.

MATTHEW WUEST

Sports in brief

Local Leblanc International Bowl bound

FOOTBALL. Halifax's Jacob Leblanc has been named to the International Federation of Football's world team for USA Football's International Bowl that will take place Feb. 1 in Austin, Tex. The six-foot-two defensive lineman was Atlantic University Sport rookie of the year with the Mount Allison Mounties this past season, recording 30 tackles and five sacks in eight games.

METRO

Moose given German 'C'

HOCKEY. Halifax Mooseheads defenceman Konrad Abeltshauser has been named captain of Team Germany at the IIHF's Pool B world junior championship. Abeltshauser was held off the score-sheet in host Germany's 2-1 tournament-opening win over Belarus yesterday.

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‘If you believe then unbelievable things can sometimes be possible’

Tebow leads Denver to OT win over Chicago Victory is his seventh in eight starts

Wild wins are becoming routine for Tim Tebow and the Denver Broncos, who flail away through most of four quarters before coming through in the clutch.

Matt Prater’s 51-yard field goal 6½ minutes into overtime gave the Broncos a 13-10 victory over the stunned Chicago Bears on Sunday. Prater’s 59-yarder with three seconds left in regulation tied the score after Tebow led another rally.

“If you believe,” Tebow said, “then unbelievable things can sometimes be possible.”

It was Denver’s sixth straight win and seventh in eight games since Tebow, dubbed the “Mile High Messiah,” was promoted to starter. The Broncos have trailed in the second half in six of those victories.

This latest comeback put Denver in sole possession of first place in the AFC West after Oakland’s 46-16 drubbing at Green Bay.

“Never say never,” wide receiver Eric Decker said. “That’s a great characteristic of this team. ... Again it wasn’t pretty. But again in the fourth quarter, we found a way to make some plays. Matt Prater, man, the kid can boom it.”

DOUG PENSINGER/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Tim Tebow is tackled after getting a first down.

After failing to score on their first dozen possessions, the Broncos (8-5) erased a 10-0 deficit in the final 2:08 of regulation.

“I think we’re rewriting the book on ‘keep fighting,”‘ coach John Fox said. “Our guys never blink. They remain positive. As bad as it looked today — we didn’t play well; we had some drops. But the guy who dropped a couple of passes caught the ... touchdown. That’s kind of the M.O. on this bunch.”

Tebow hit Demaryius Thomas with a 10-yard TD pass, then got the ball back with 53 seconds left after Marion Barber saved the Broncos precious time by going out of bounds when the Bears were trying to run out the clock.

Denver was out of timeouts after Thomas’ touchdown and had to try an onside kick, which the Broncos couldn’t recover. But on second down after the two-minute warning, Barber cut outside and was pushed out, stopping the clock.

The Bears would have to punt, and Tebow got the ball back at his 20 and went to work, not needing to go far with Prater’s strong leg in the thin air.

He drove the Broncos 39 yards for Prater’s kick, which he rocketed through the uprights.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5

Tebow was intercepted once, fumbled the ball away on another play and was sacked five times.

Texans finally make playoffs

Rookie T.J. Yates led the biggest drive in Houston Texans history, throwing a 6-yard touchdown pass with 2 seconds left for a 20-19 victory that brought the first playoff berth in franchise history.

With their seventh straight win, the Texans (10-3) moved to the threshold of their first playoff berth. They clinched the AFC South title a few minutes later when Tennessee lost to New Orleans.

CHARGERS 37, BILLS 10

Philip Rivers threw three touchdown passes, two to Antonio Gates, and the San Diego Chargers beat the Buffalo Bills 37-10 Sunday to keep their playoff hopes alive.

Buffalo (5-8) lost its sixth straight game and was eliminated from playoff contention for the 12th straight year. The Chargers (6-7) have won two straight following their six-game losing streak.

Rivers was 24 of 33 for 240 yards. Ryan Mathews gained 114 yards on 20 carries, the first time he’s had three straight 100-yard games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



‘Highly unusual circumstances’

Spokesman says Braun will be able to prove his innocence after testing positive for banned substance

National League MVP Ryan Braun has tested positive for a banned substance and is appealing to avoid a 50-game suspension, according to people familiar with the case.

ESPN cited two sources Saturday in first reporting the result, saying the Milwaukee Brewers slugger tested positive for elevated levels of testosterone, adding that a later test by the World Anti-Doping Agency lab in Montreal determined the testosterone was synthetic.

A spokesman for Braun said in a statement issued to ESPN and The Associated Press that “there are highly unusual circumstances surrounding this case which will support Ryan’s complete innocence.”

“There was absolutely no intentional violation of the program,” Matthew Hiltzik said in a statement sent by the four-time all-star left-fielder’s representatives.

“While Ryan has impeccable character and no previous history, unfortunately, because of the process we have to maintain confidentiality and are not able to discuss it any further, but we are confident that he will ultimately be exonerated,” he said.

Major League Baseball does not announce positive tests and penalties in drug cases involving initial positives until all arbitration is concluded.

The case is still being appealed to an arbitrator under MLB’s drug program, people familiar with the situation told the AP. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because the appeal is still ongoing.

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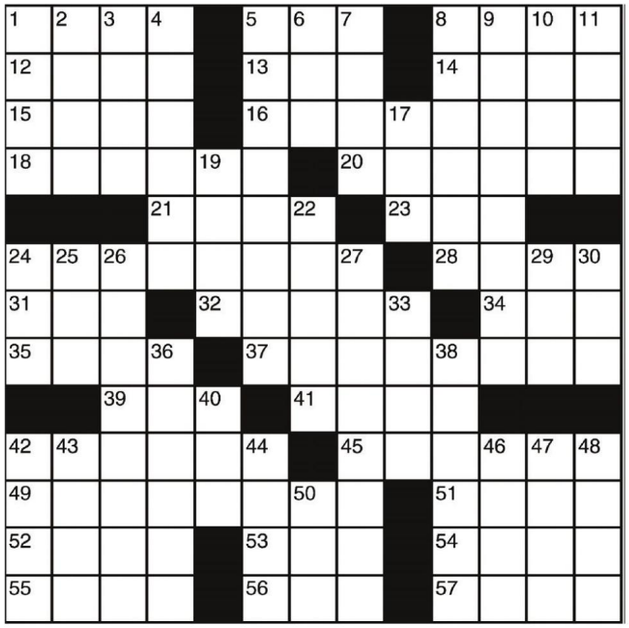
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Crossword



Across

1 Eastern European
5 Use a crowbar
8 Resistance measures
12 Chantilly, e.g.
13 Individual
14 Reach 212 degrees, perhaps
15 Microwave, for one
16 Willingness to wait
18 No-goodnik
20 Bit of progress
21 Makes a mistake
23 Neither partner
24 New England football team
28 Astronaut Armstrong
31 "This tastes awful!"
32 Wall painting
34 Ram's mate
35 Standard
37 New Jersey city
39 Corn spike
41 Purple shade
42 Sculpture
45 Pale brown monkey
49 Spoke rapid-fire
51 Conflagration
52 Out of the storm
53 — carte
54 Rim
55 Fix
56 Firmament
57 Smell bad

Down

1 Unkempt one
2 Volcano outflow
3 Scored 100 on
4 Plywood layer
5 Boy band, e.g.
6 Genetic letters
7 Bigfoot's cousin
8 Fairy king
9 Award recipients
10 Isinglass
11 Coaster
17 Hostel
19 Bleak
22 Knapsack part
24 Play on words
25 Past
26 Menace
27 "— Night Live"
29 Jima preceder
30 Author Deighton
33 Walesa of Poland
36 In a thick tangle, as hair
38 Close-fitting jacket
40 Regret
42 Unwanted email
43 Story
44 Historic periods
46 Faction
47 Incite
48 Look for
50 Wapiti

▶ Friday's answer

J	A	R		G	A	S	P		T	H	I	S
A	G	O		I	D	E	A		W	A	L	K
D	O	B	E	R	M	A	N		I	D	L	Y
A	G	E	N	D	A		A	L	L			
			R	E	N		C	O	L	L	I	E
T	E	N	O	R		F	E	W		A	D	D
A	X	O	N		A	L	A		D	Y	E	D
M	P	G		I	V	Y		B	A	S	S	O
P	O	O	D	L	E		F	E	Z			
			O	E	R		A	G	E	I	S	M
J	A	Z	Z		A	I	R	E	D	A	L	E
A	L	O	E		G	N	A	T		M	U	M
N	E	O	N		E	N	D	S		B	R	O

Sudoku

	6	1	3		8	5	2	
5	2						8	4
		8	7		9	4		
	7			1			3	
		5	4		3	6		
8	1						5	3
	4	3	2		7	8	6	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Friday's answer ▶

4	3	7	6	1	9	8	2	5
9	5	6	8	2	3	1	7	4
1	2	8	4	7	5	6	3	9
2	1	4	9	5	7	3	6	8
6	7	9	2	3	8	4	5	1
5	8	3	1	4	6	7	9	2
3	9	5	7	8	1	2	4	6
7	4	1	5	6	2	9	8	3
8	6	2	3	9	4	5	1	7

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FROM TEDDY JAMES

me
Howdie me. Peaches here...not sure if I am the peaches you are looking for. Need more info before I call
FROM PEACHES

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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You will do the opposite of what everyone thinks you will do, not because you have to but because you like to be unpredictable.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 The best things in life are free.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 There seems to be some tension in your dealings with other people.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Something unexpected will knock you back a bit today and it will take you a while to find your stride again.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 There is nothing you cannot handle. There is nothing you cannot do. Be extraordinary.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 If someone annoys you today the best and safest way to deal with them is to turn your back and walk away.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You will have to take sides in a dispute of some kind today.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Put your own needs first today and don't worry that some people may think you are being selfish.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You will be extremely active over the next seven days as you strive to complete the various tasks you started in recent weeks.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Go out of your way to help someone in need.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Stop dreaming about what you would like to do and actually start doing it.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Do other people's achievements inspire you or make you envious? If it's the latter you need to realize that envy can motivate you as much as more positive emotions. Envy is only a bad thing if you do nothing with it. ● **SALLY BROMPTON**

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PETR DAVID JOSEK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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